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FURY OVER PM's PLAN TO UNPICK OUR BREXIT

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Met Office warns of ‘multi-hazard event’ with heavy downpours and severe gales

BRITAIN TO BE HIT BY MAJOR SNOW STORM BLAST

BY **CHRIS RICHES**

THE big freeze is set to take a stormy turn with blizzards bringing chaos across the UK.

Met Office forecasters warned of a rare “multi-hazard” event lashing the nation with wind, snow and rain as Storm Goretti sweeps in.

Up to eight inches of snow could fall on higher ground in England and Wales as this week’s bitter temperatures remain well below average into the weekend.

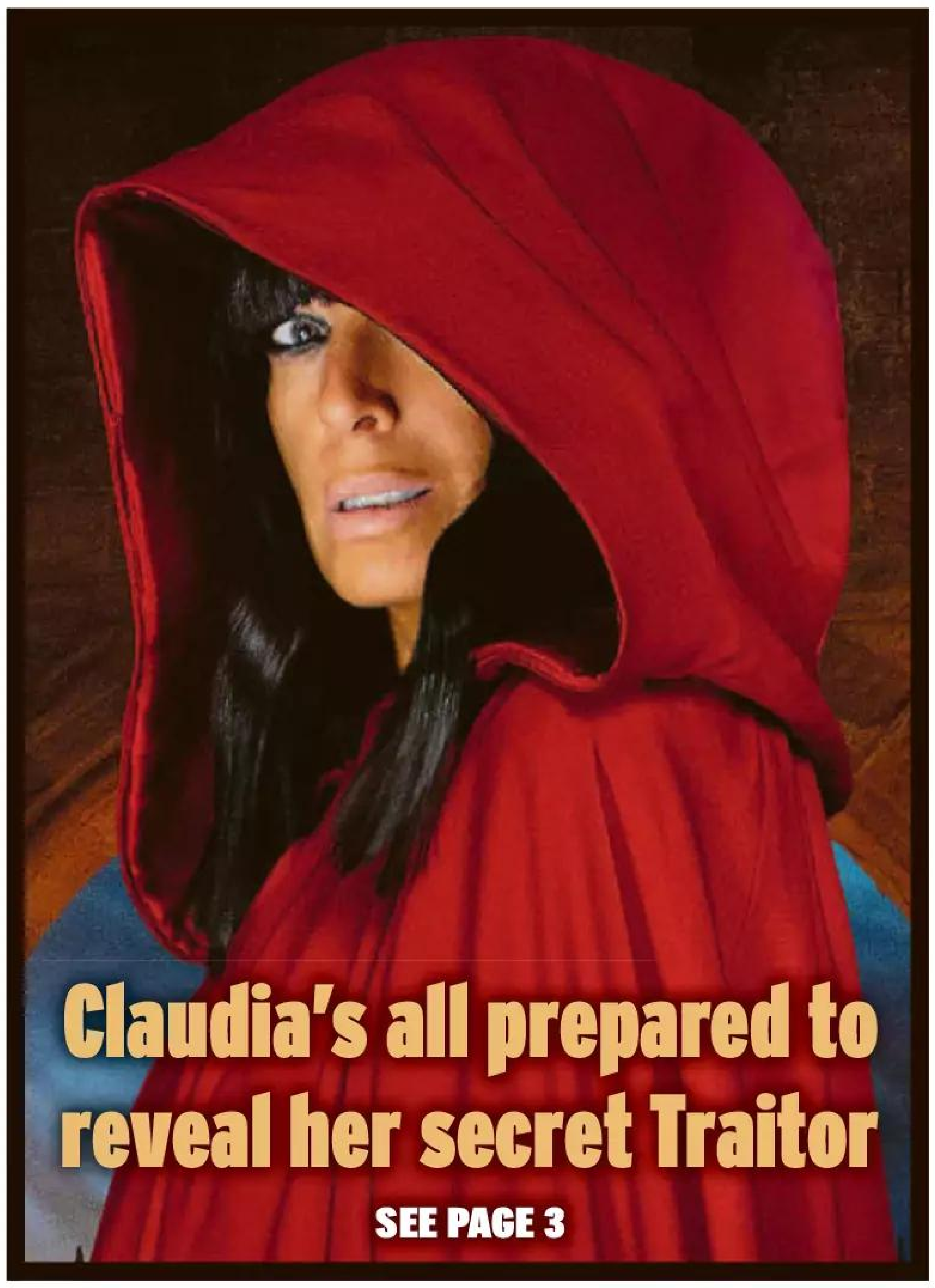
Disruption

The Met Office warned: “Storm Goretti is likely to bring heavy snow leading to disruption and difficult travelling conditions.

“A spell of heavy snow is likely to develop over higher ground in South Wales later on Thursday before rain turns to snow more widely over parts of England and Wales during Thursday night.”

School closures will continue today after more than 1,000 stayed shut yesterday

TURN TO PAGE 4



Claudia's all prepared to reveal her secret Traitor

SEE PAGE 3

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TV millions on standby tonight to see secret TRAITOR uncloaked

Viewers spellbound by show's devious twist

BY **ED GLEAVE**

THE Traitors is tipped to pull in record viewing figures tonight.

Britain looks set to come to a standstill at 8pm as fans tune in to find out who the secret Traitor is.

Bookies last night slashed odds of ratings hitting a series-high viewers.

Theories

Coral spokesperson John Hill said: "The Traitors continues to attract big numbers and with a fresh twist to this year's show, we make it odds-on for this series to reach 10million viewers."

In Saturday night's episode, regular Traitors Stephen Libby and Rachel Duffy were told they were going to finally discover the identity of the secret Traitor.

As it reached its climax, they heard a knock on the door of the turret and geared up to finally find out. It has left fans convinced the secret Traitor will finally be unmasked when the series continues tonight.

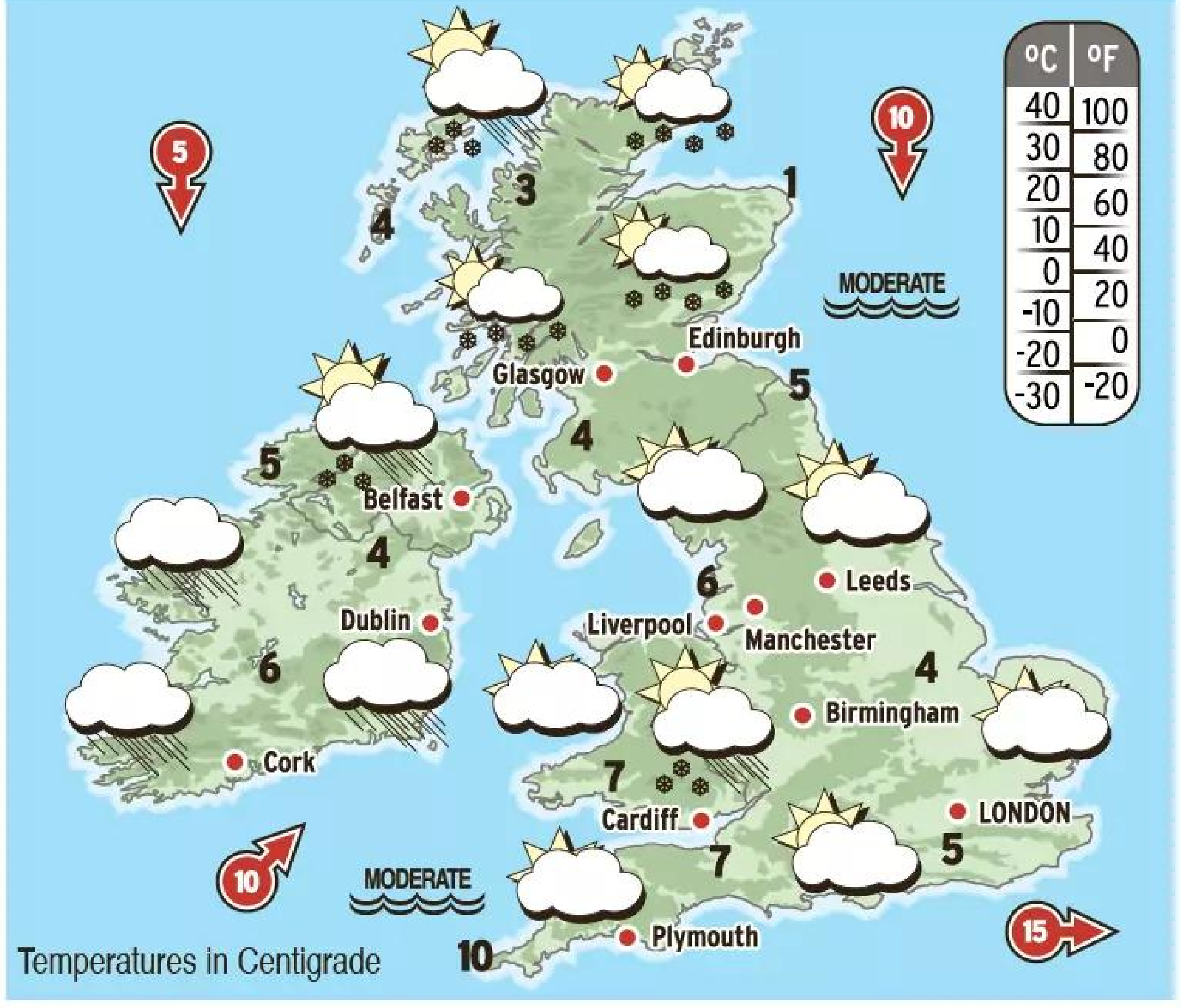
Speculation of who it could be has reached fever pitch since the series started last week.

Fans have been sharing theories on social media and it has become a talking point in living rooms and offices across the country. Producers have gone all out to make sure the identity of the secret Traitor hasn't leaked.

During the celebrity series in the autumn, the show was thrown into chaos when people involved with the show let slip that Alan Carr won before the final aired.

Claudia puts on the secret Traitor's red cloak. Left, Traitors Stephen and Rachel

WEATHER FORECAST



Temperatures in Centigrade

Today's summary: Chilly showers, turning cloudy

North West: Dry and bright with sunshine but also patchy cloud. Moderate north-westerly winds. High 5C (41F).

Northern Ireland: Cloudy with light rain later. Some sunny spells. Breezy, turning cooler. High 4C (39F).

Wales: Cloudy spells with drizzle. Brightening later. Light winds, turning cool in the evening. High 7C (45F).

Midlands: Bright and dry with patchy cloud and sunny spells. Moderate north-westerly winds. High 5C (41F).

North East/Yorks: Dry with patchy cloud for a time, but increasingly sunny. Light winds. High 4C (39F).

Scotland: Cloudy with sunny intervals. Chilly later. Light winds throughout. High 3C (37F).

East Anglia: Cloudy with sleet at times. Clearing later. Breezy and chilly throughout the day. High 4C (39F).

London/South East: Wet start, clearing to sunny spells. Moderate winds, turning brisk later. Chilly. High 6C (43F).

South: Dry and bright with sunshine but also patchy cloud. Moderate northerly winds. High 6C (43F).

South West: Cloudy with light rain, turning sunny later. Gentle winds. Quite cold. High 8C (46F).

Channel Isles: Dull with patchy light rain, mainly during the morning. Brisk westerly winds. High 8C (46F).

Sea: North Sea: Moderate. Irish Sea: Rough. Channel: Moderate.

UK OUTLOOK TOMORROW: Expect cold conditions with possible rain showers early, clearing to sunny intervals. Winds light to moderate. Cloudy spells in the evening.

SIX-DAY FORECAST

Temperatures in Centigrade

	THU		FRI		SAT		SUN		MON		TUE	
	min	max	min	max	min	max	min	max	min	max	min	max
London	2	5	0	5	1	5	5	9	5	10	4	9
Belfast	0	4	0	4	3	4	4	8	4	7	3	6
Birmingham	1	4	0	4	1	4	4	8	4	8	3	7
Cardiff	2	6	1	6	4	6	6	10	6	10	5	8
Glasgow	-1	5	-1	4	2	4	4	7	4	7	3	6
Manchester	2	5	-1	4	1	4	5	8	4	8	3	7
Newcastle	1	2	0	3	0	3	4	5	3	6	3	6
Norwich	2	4	1	4	1	4	4	7	4	8	4	8
Plymouth	4	10	4	7	7	9	8	11	7	10	6	9

Britain yesterday

24 hours to 5pm	SUN (hrs)	RAIN (ins)	TEMP (min)	(max)
Aberdeen	0.7	0.09	-4	1
Aberporth	2.1	0.27	1	6
Alnwick	0.0	0.13	-6	4
Belfast	0.0	0.05	0	4
Birmingham	0.8	0.02	-6	4
B'mouth	3.0	0.00	-8	6
Bristol	1.6	0.01	-5	5
Cardiff	1.9	0.04	-3	7
Durham	0.0	0.03	-5	2
Edinburgh	0.0	0.06	-3	4
Glasgow	0.0	0.11	-3	4
Hull	0.3	0.03	-5	2
Ipswich	3.6	0.04	-8	1
Leeds	0.3	0.01	-5	4
Lincoln	0.4	0.01	-5	2
London	0.2	0.00	-6	3
Manchester	0.0	0.06	-9	3
Oxford	2.5	0.01	-5	4
S'hampton	1.1	0.02	-3	7
St Andrews	0.0	0.10	-4	4

Moon, sun and tides

MOON rises: 9.32pm, sets: 10.17am
SUN rises London: 8.04am, sets: 4.09pm
Manchester rises: 8.22am, sets: 4.07pm

Last Quarter
10 January

HIGH TIDE

London B'ge	(2.15am), (2.15pm)
Liverpool	(2.06am), (2.22pm)
Greenock	(1.31am), (1.42pm)
Dover	(1.54am), (2.10pm)

Britain Extremes:

(24 hours to 11pm Monday)

Warmest: St. Mary's 8C (46F)
Coldest: Marham -11C (12F)
Wettest: Aultbea 0.47in.
Sunniest: Wattisham 6.2hr.

Lighting-up times

Belfast	4.16pm-8.42am
Birmingham	4.11pm-8.15am
Bristol	4.19pm-8.13am
Glasgow	4.02pm-8.43am
London	4.09pm-8.04am
Manchester	4.07pm-8.22am
Newcastle	3.57pm-8.27am

Europe forecast

Today

Amsterdam	Snow	3C/37F
Brussels	Snow	1C/34F
Dublin	Rain	5C/41F
Frankfurt	Cloudy	0C/32F
Geneva	Snow	-1C/30F
Lisbon	Showers	14C/57F
Madrid	Fair	8C/46F
Paris	Snow	2C/36F
Rome	Rain	10C/50F

Tomorrow

Amsterdam	Rain	3C/37F
Brussels	Rain	4C/39F
Dublin	Rain	5C/41F
Frankfurt	Snow	2C/36F
Geneva	Sleet	3C/37F
Lisbon	Fair	14C/57F
Madrid	Cloudy	7C/45F
Paris	Rain	9C/48F
Rome	Sunny	10C/50F

Around the world yesterday

		C	F
Amsterdam	Snow	1	34
Athens	Sunny	19	66
Barcelona	Sunny	6	43
Berlin	Snow	-4	25
Budapest	Cloudy	-2	28
Cairo	Sunny	20	68
Cape Town	Shwrs	24	75
Casablanca	Shwrs	14	57
Corfu	Thndr	18	64
Dublin	Rain	4	39
Dubrovnik	Thndr	13	55
Faro	Sunny	12	54
Florence	Rain	3	37
Gibraltar	Sunny	10	50
Guernsey	Fair	6	43
Hong Kong	Sunny	15	59
Istanbul	Fair	16	61
Jersey	Fair	6	43
Larnaca	Sunny	20	68
Las Palmas	Shwrs	19	66
Los Angeles	Fair	17	63
Luxor	Sunny	23	73
Malaga	Sunny	10	50
Mallorca	Cloudy	11	52
Malta	Sunny	19	66
Melbourne	Sunny	25	77
Miami	Fair	24	75
Moscow	Cloudy	-9	16
Nairobi	Sunny	24	75
New Delhi	Sunny	12	54
New York	Cloudy	1	34
Nice	Sunny	9	48
Nicosia	Sunny	18	64
Perth	Sunny	30	86
Prague	Sunny	-5	23
Singapore	Fair	28	82
Stockholm	Snow	0	32
Sydney	Sunny	26	79
Tel Aviv	Sunny	21	70
Tenerife	Fair	21	70
Toronto	Snow	-1	30
Tunis	Fair	16	61
Venice	Sleet	2	36
Vienna	Cloudy	-1	30
Warsaw	Fair	-7	19

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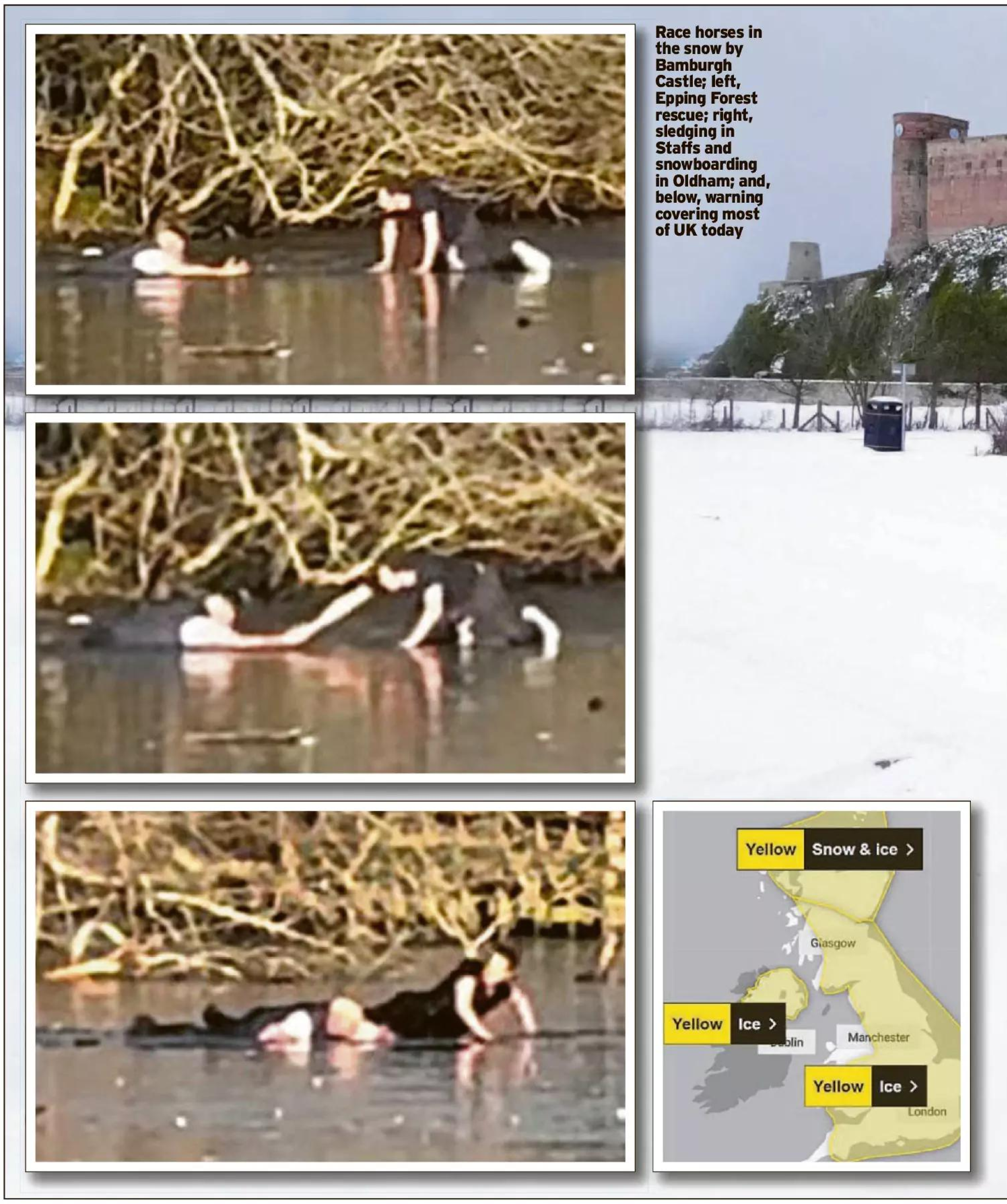

Race horses in the snow by Bamburgh Castle; left, Epping Forest rescue; right, sledging in Staffs and snowboarding in Oldham; and, below, warning covering most of UK today

FROM PAGE ONE

due to icy roads or snow drifts making travel hazardous.

But there were some heartwarming scenes as blue skies tempted some brave souls to venture out into the winter wonderland.

Race horses enjoyed a walk on the snowy beach by Bamburgh Castle in Northumberland, children took to their sledges in Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffs, and intrepid James Lowe, 56, tried a spot of snowboarding in Oldham, Greater Manchester.

Meanwhile a video showed how a hero passer-by leapt into a frozen lake to pull out a stranger who had fallen through the ice during a dog rescue mission at the weekend. The man had been trying to save the stricken animal after it walked on to the ice at Connaught Water in Epping Forest, Essex, on Sunday afternoon.

After both men and the pet managed to clamber out they were treated by paramedics as Essex Fire and Rescue Service urged others not to go into frozen water and instead call 999.

Rampage

Storm Goretti, named by French forecasters Météo-France, is due to rampage in from northern France bringing widespread snow, heavy rain and severe gales to England and Wales tomorrow and Friday.

An amber cold weather health alert was issued by the UK Health Security Agency as it warned of a rise in deaths among the vulnerable and those aged 65-plus.

Yesterday Aberdeen City Council announced school closures for today as Aberdeenshire council declared a major incident due to the snow, warning of power cuts and that some rural communities will be cut off this week.

Met Office deputy chief forecaster Chris Bulmer said: "A deepening area of low pressure, Storm Goretti, will move across the south of the UK during Thursday and into Friday.

"It will clash with the very cold air here, meaning Thursday night could be what we call a 'multi-hazard' event, with snow on the northern flank of

CORRECTIONS AND COMPLAINTS

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Goretti or not, now for the really big freeze...

the low [pressure area], wind and rain on the southern flank."

Ahead of Goretti's arrival new yellow snow, ice and wind warnings were issued, some covering most of Britain and some lasting until Friday. On Thursday gusts could hit 70mph on exposed coasts in Devon and Cornwall.

Snow is likely to develop over higher ground in South Wales late on Thursday, before rain turns to snow more widely across England and Wales overnight, the Met Office said. London and the South West are expected to dodge significant snowfall, while Scotland will see further wintry showers today before missing out on being hit by Storm Goretti.

Monday night was the coldest of the winter so far as temperatures plunged as low as -12.5C in Marham, Norfolk, while Santon Downham in Suffolk, and Topcliffe, North Yorkshire, both saw -10C.

This week's big freeze has already brought parts of the UK to a near standstill, with huge delays on roads, trains and at airports – with worse still to come.

The heaviest snow has fallen in Scotland with 52cm (1ft 8in) recorded by the Met Office at Tomintoul in Banffshire.

One man in Scotland has built an igloo with a working fireplace.

But there was even some snowfall in London yesterday.

The drop in temperatures has triggered cold weather payments for hundreds of thousands of households.

The payments are designed to help elderly and vulnerable people with heating costs, the government has said.

Zero

Eligible households automatically receive £25 when temperatures are recorded or forecast to be zero degrees or below over seven consecutive days.

Milder air is due to move in from the west next week, bringing an end to the current cold snap.

OPINION: PAGE 12

CLIMATE CHANGE CHAOS RISKS CANCER TREATMENT, SAY MEDICS

BY **CHRIS RICHES**

SCIENTISTS have launched a study into how extreme weather such as heatwaves, storms and floods can damage cancer treatments.

The Christie Hospital, Manchester's specialist cancer centre, says travel disruption that results in postponed treatment such as radiotherapy and chemo and can worsen illness.

Dr Robert Chuter said: "Climate change isn't just an environmental issue – it's a health emergency. Cancer patients rely on timely treatment, and even short delays can have serious consequences."

Findings may highlight the need for infrastructure improvements and service delivery changes to minimise lags in getting seen.

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Diego Garcia military base

Lords secure 'humiliating' defeats on Chagos deal

BY **CHRISTIAN CALGIE**

MEMBERS of the House of Lords have dealt a major blow to the Prime Minister's Chagos bill, inflicting four humiliating defeats against Labour.

Peers managed to pass significant amendments to Sir Keir's sell-off of the Diego Garcia base to Mauritius, including a new demand for a referendum of local Chagossians.

A coalition of Tories, Lib Dems, cross-benchers and others backed the amendment, to block ratification of the treaty until the islanders have their say.

The government has come under significant fire over its refusal to listen to opposition from the Chagossians.

There are major human rights concerns about how locals would be treated by Mauritius.

The issue will now go back to the Commons for more debate.

Shameful

Other defeats for Sir Keir's deal late on Monday included a demand for the government to finally come clean about the true cost of the deal.

Sir Keir has claimed it will cost taxpayers £3.4bn but experts said the lifetime cost could be ten times higher.

A third successful amendment would mean payments to Mauritius could stop if use of the Diego Garcia base was prevented and a fourth could block spending that exceeds published government estimates.

Dame Priti Patel MP, Shadow Foreign Secretary, said: "Once again Labour have suffered a humiliating defeat on their shameful anti-British Chagos Surrender Bill.

"At every stage of this process, the government has sought to silence and ignore the Chagossian people and dodge scrutiny for the outrageous handover of British territory and £35 billion of taxpayers' money."

Brexit rollback outrage as Starmer plots to hand EU food and farming powers

Keir Starmer takes seat at Cabinet yesterday amid plans to give EU power over our laws

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BY **MARTYN BROWN**
and **ELEANOR BURLEIGH**

SIR Keir Starmer faced fresh fury over a plot to hand the EU new powers that could allow Brussels to alter UK law.

Anger erupted after it was revealed he has ordered ministers to prepare legislation as his controversial plans to "reset" Brexit gather pace.

The Brexit Bill – which will be fiercely opposed by the Conservatives and Reform UK – is expected to be tabled in parliament this spring.

It will effectively allow the EU to change British laws in areas such as food standards, animal welfare and pesticide use. And it will mark the first time since Britain left the EU that MPs have been asked to surrender their sovereign right to make laws in certain areas.

Instead, the UK will be expected to comply with regulations from Brussels under a process known as dynamic alignment. In contrast to when the UK was a member of the EU, the British government will not have a vote on future laws passed by Brussels that could affect us.

Reform UK deputy leader Richard Tice accused the Prime Minister of trying to reverse Brexit.

He said: "This EU reset bill is a blatant effort by Starmer's remainers to overturn the democratic will of 17.4 million people. They want Britain back under the thumb of the EU rules, taxes and costs.

"Reform UK will highlight this government's betrayal and make Brexit a success when we're in power."

A Labour source said: "We have decided we will align with some of the EU's rules, in the name of easing trade for British businesses and lowering bills for British households.

"The very nature of all international agreements is that they involve shared rules on certain areas.

"Free traders and conservatives have always wrestled with this concept and the boldest have succeeded when they do not let ideology get in the way."

Ministers say the change in legal jurisdiction will matter little as, since Brexit, UK food manufacturers have largely followed new EU rules because they are supplying both markets.

They argue the change will mean there is no need for expensive and time-consuming paperwork for farmers and food sellers who want to export their goods to the continent.

Home Secretary Yvette Cooper, centre, and Chancellor Rachel Reeves at Cabinet yesterday

But Richard Wheeler, 55, who runs a 200-acre dairy farm in Cutnall Green, Worcestershire, said: "UK farmers are willing to contend with a bit of paperwork because we're proud that we work to a higher standard than everyone else.

"What this really is is a precursor for allowing more food into the country that is of a lower quality and doesn't adhere to our regulations on things like pesticides. The first thing I thought when I heard this was this is Starmer's next trick of incompetence.

"He's using the excuse that Brexit isn't working to take us back to the EU with no clear mandate from the electorate and no seat at the table, and expecting all UK businesses to toe the line regardless of all the unknowns."

Sir Keir has said he hopes to "go further" in his European reset, but rejoining the customs union or EU single market are "red lines" in his negotiations.

Speaking to the BBC on Sunday, he said he had already taken the "sovereign decision" to align with the EU more closely.

He told Laura Kuenssberg: "I think we should get closer, and if it's in our national interest to have even closer alignment with the single market, then we should consider that. We should go that far."

OPINION: PAGE 12

ANALYSIS

MARTYN
BROWN
Political Editor

KEIR Starmer is laughing in the faces of the 17.4 million people who voted for Brexit.

The Labour leader is hellbent on reversing the historic democratic vote which resulted in Britain leaving the EU almost six years ago.

His latest plot - to hand the EU new powers that could allow Brussels to alter UK law.

It will effectively allow the EU to change British laws in areas such as food standards, animal welfare and pesticide use.

And it will mark the first time since Britain left the EU that MPs have been asked to surrender their sovereign right to make laws in certain areas.

Warpath

It's no surprise that the man who campaigned not only for Britain to remain in the European Union during the 2016 referendum but subsequently spent years attempting to overturn the result, continues on his warpath to bring Britain back into Brussels' orbit now that he has the keys to Number 10.

Starmer's masterplan for a "reset" with Brussels is gathering pace.

At the weekend, he doubled down on his desire to see Britain back under the thumb of eurocrats in Brussels, suggesting that Labour could force Britain closer to the EU single market.

Before Christmas the government announced it is paying £570million to rejoin the Erasmus student exchange programme.

It all adds up, Sir Keir hopes, to a new "reset" deal with the European Union being rubber-stamped in 2027.

Worryingly, that's only just the beginning.

TO READ ALL THE BEST POLITICAL STORIES OF THE DAY GO TO EXPRESS.CO.UK/POLITICS

Liam Rosenior did 36mph

New Chelsea boss is fined for speeding

BY **TRISTAN KIRK**

NEW Chelsea manager Liam Rosenior has been convicted of speeding after fog delayed his flight to the UK to do a speed awareness course.

The 41-year-old, who replaced Enzo Maresca at Stamford Bridge yesterday, was prosecuted after his Audi had been caught on a speed camera.

Rosenior admitted doing 36mph in a 30mph zone in Littleover, Derby, on July 7. He was given the chance to avoid prosecution with a speed awareness course.

In a note to Derby magistrates' court he said: "We were stuck in France due to fog."

He said he "had to stay another night and be on a plane the next day during the time of the course".

JPs ordered Rosenior to pay £1,052 in fines and costs and imposed three penalty points on his licence.

Sacking over wife's kill bid 'was not fair'

BY **JORDAN REYNOLDS**

AN ambulance worker whose wife tried to kill their boss with a hammer was unfairly fired, a tribunal ruled.

Police decided to take no further action against Paula Smith on allegations of harassing and threatening to kill the manager.

But she was sacked by North West Ambulance Service Trust in April 2024. Her wife and colleague Stacey Smith was jailed for 20 years in 2024 for trying to kill Michala Morton with a hammer after a row over shifts in Oldham.

Bosses told Paula her "known arrest and association with someone who has been charged with attempted murder of your manager" undermines trust in the service.

But a Manchester employment judge said her arrest received no publicity. A remedy could be given later.

Trump's military option on Greenland

Mr Trump delights in military success yesterday. Inset, Maduro escorted to court in New York

BY **CIARAN McGRATH**

DONALD Trump is considering military action to take Greenland, the White House said last night.

In a development likely to cause uproar among Nato allies, Trump's team said they were actively discussing a range of methods for acquiring semi-autonomous Danish territory.

The US president has consistently emphasised acquiring the territory as a "national security priority", a statement from the White House said. Notably, it added that "utilising the US military is always an option".

Sir Keir Starmer joined the leaders of France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Spain, and Denmark to affirm Greenland's sovereignty, asserting that it belongs to its people. Options to take control of the island include buying it or forming a compact of free association, Reuters reported, citing a senior US official.

Earlier Mr Trump boasted that the detention of Venezuelan president Nicolas Maduro was an "amazing military feat".

He added: "There was no electricity... so we sort of got them a little by surprise, but it was brilliant."

The US president's glee came as House Speaker Mike Johnson said the action was a targeted strike against drug trafficking, rather than broader regime change. But he also suggested that the US control of Venezuelan oil exports would encourage the country's interim government to implement reforms.

The military operation to detain Mr Maduro, in which some soldiers were killed, has caused fierce anti-American sentiment in South America, with a Stars and Stripes flag burned in the Argentine capital Buenos Aires.

US flag burns in Buenos Aires and, left, the Venezuelan parliament as Delcy Rodriguez is sworn in as president, replacing Nicolas Maduro

Britain will send troops to Ukraine after a ceasefire

BY **AARON NEWBURY**

Ukraine's Zelensky, France's Macron and Britain's Sir Keir shake on the 'Paris Declaration'

BRITISH troops will be deployed on the ground in Ukraine in the event of a peace deal with Russia, Sir Keir Starmer has announced.

The Prime Minister yesterday signed a declaration of intent with French president Emmanuel Macron and Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelensky to put boots on the ground.

Britain and France would establish "military hubs" across Ukraine under security guarantees reached by them and dozens of other world leaders to deter future acts of Russian aggression.

Speaking at a press conference in Paris, Sir Keir said Britain would secure Ukraine's "skies and seas" should an end to the conflict be agreed with Moscow.

At the centre of the guarantee is a multinational military force that would be – vitally – supported by the US in the event of an attack, according to a draft statement.

Sir Keir said peace was "closer than ever", as he announced Britain would "build protected facilities for weapons and military equipment to support Ukraine's defensive needs" and supply arms to assist in the regeneration of the country's military.

But he warned peace could only be reached if Vladimir Putin was "ready to make compromises", adding that the Russian leader was not "showing that he's ready for peace". Sir Keir said: "We will keep the pressure up on Russia, including further measures on oil tankers and shadow fleet operators funding Putin's war chest."

After the papers were signed, a No10 spokesman said: "This is a vital part of our iron-cast commitment to stand with Ukraine for the long term.

"It paves the way for the legal framework to be established for French and UK forces to operate on Ukrainian soil, securing Ukraine's skies and seas and building an armed forces fit for the future."

Mr Zelensky said the arrangement was crucial to "prevent future Russian aggression". Thirty-five world leaders alongside Donald Trump's envoy Steve Witkoff and son-in-law Jared Kushner agreed the proposal.

It states the US will lead a "ceasefire monitoring system" – with a multinational force to be sent into Ukraine after a deal with Russia is agreed. Deployments will be "European-led" but the US will provide security guarantees, possibly including air defence.

Mr Macron dubbed the agreement the "Paris Declaration" and said it offered "strong security guarantees".

Mr Witkoff said Mr Trump "strongly stands" behind the security protocols.

Peace talks between Mr Zelensky and Putin have stalled after the former rejected Russian demands to surrender territory.

NEW SPHERES OF INFLUENCE: PAGES 8&9

NEW SPHERES

After his audacious Venezuela operation, Donald Trump may now have his sights on Colombia, Cuba and Greenland. Global affairs expert PETER APPS unpicks the changing world order... and its new divides

GREENLAND

Trump's talk of seizing Greenland began in his first term, and this week his White House deputy chief of staff insisted Europe wouldn't fight the US over it

MEXICO & CANADA

Mexico's president Claudia Sheinbaum, left, should learn to 'behave' following the hit on Venezuela, says Trump. But he has ruled out action against Canada

BRITAIN

After initial silence, Keir Starmer joined European leaders in telling Trump: 'Hands off Greenland.' But it is unclear how officials will respond to future crises

COLOMBIA & CUBA

Trump has suggested that Colombia is next on his hit list but its president has vowed to fight off any attack. Trump also claims Cuba is 'ready to fall'

IT MAY be hard to believe but Donald Trump has been in office less than a year yet his actions in the first days of 2026 have stunned foreign capitals worldwide, with enemies and allies racing to recalibrate expectations for the remainder of his term.

That, of course, was almost certainly part of the intent: the lightning US military raid on Venezuela and seizure of president Nicolas Maduro was intended not just to abruptly reset relations with that nation. The following days have seen a flurry of presidential comments warning other nations – most specifically Colombia and Cuba.

Particularly alarming for Europe in general and Denmark in particular is the stepping up of rhetoric over US interest in Greenland by Trump and those he surrounds himself with – effectively threatening the seizure of territory administered by a European NATO ally.

Trump has also threatened military action on Nigeria and Iran, the former over alleged atrocities against Christians and the latter over a tough crackdown on protests.

The Trump administration's moves were initially signalled at the start of December in a new national security strategy that also tore up decades of diplomatic norms by pledging to work with Right-wing parties to bring them to power in Europe.

Even more outrageous – particularly in the eyes of more traditional foreign and US diplomats – has been the explicit tying together of business, mineral, energy and real-estate interests to almost all US-linked negotiations, including potential peace deals in war-torn regions such as Gaza and Ukraine.

It feels an age since the NATO summit in June, when multiple alliance leaders praised Trump for his strength in launching US airstrikes on Iran – hoping his willingness to use military force would be repeated if long-standing US allies were attacked.

There are plenty of indications that this remains the case. US-coordinated global military drills from the Arctic to the Pacific have put the US military at the heart of defending Europe against Russia, or confronting China in the aftermath of an invasion of Taiwan.

The US has also just signed off on a record weapons deal to that island, prompting a furious response from China, including a simulated blockade and reignited warnings to "reunify" with Taiwan by force – a savage reminder that Beijing and Moscow are as assertive as the Trump administration in military posturing to achieve their ends.

In Europe, that includes the reported deployment of Russian Oreshnik intermediate ballistic missiles into Belarus, now within range to drop their conventional or nuclear warheads on London in eight minutes.

Against that backdrop – and what is seen a quietly rising Russian threat to exposed NATO states in Eastern Europe, particularly the Baltics – the ongoing conflict in Ukraine is increasingly being seen as a harbinger of what a much wider war might look like.

It is a conflict in which Trump has dramatically pulled back US support and continues to push the Kyiv government towards a string of potential peace deals frequently seen as nakedly pro-Russian.

And it is a reminder that many see US president Trump as happier dealing directly with autocrats – although events in Venezuela show how he might also act against them.

Here's what could happen now:

RUSSIA: POSSIBLE FRIEND OR FOE

TRUMP has seen himself as a potential bridge between the US and the Kremlin since the early 1980s, when he put himself unsuccessfully forward as a young entrepreneur to be President Ronald Reagan's chief negotiator on atomic arms.

US spies and law enforcement agencies believe the Kremlin ran covert social media campaigns to support Trump's 2016 election – something he denies vociferously, even if he has repeatedly stressed his ability to "get on" with Putin.

Regarding Ukraine, the Trump administration has ended US financial support, significantly stripped back on supplies of US weapons and briefly cut off vital intelligence support, including airborne early warning and targeting for Kyiv's long-range weapons.

Most recently, the US appears to have pressured Ukraine to give up territory to the Kremlin in the eastern Donbas that is not yet held by Russia, something Kyiv has repeatedly refused. The Trump administration has periodically pressured the Kremlin by imposing "secondary sanctions" on buyers of Russian oil and gas, and it remains a question whether it will try for further pressure.

How events in Venezuela feed into that is anybody's guess. The Kremlin has long been a supporter of Maduro's government and the Hugo Chavez regime that came before, and Russian media reports suggest it may look to support remaining government senior officials to stand up against US pressure – which could yet spark another confrontation.

CHINA: REVERSAL OF BIDEN'S PROMISE OVER TAIWAN

THE US administration appears to be still refining its China policy – Trump has made it clear that he hopes to strike not just a trade deal but other broad agreements with his counterpart Xi Jinping, with the two leaders meeting for the first time this presidency in South Korea in late October.

Exactly what they discussed – let alone agreed – remains unclear. Washington and Beijing have clashed heavily over tariffs over the last year, with China imposing draconian restrictions on exports of rare minerals – dramatically impacting US industry, particularly defence firms. In principle, Beijing supposedly agreed to step back those restrictions in return for lower tariffs, but many companies report supplies are still tight.

As under the Biden administration, Beijing

OF INFLUENCE

RUSSIA

Trump has been pushing Ukraine to accept a Russia-friendly peace deal. Some say it shows he is happier dealing with autocrats like Putin, pictured

EUROPE

Leaders are desperate to avoid an open spat with Trump, especially as the continent's military defence relies so heavily on the United States

CHINA

THE US, which is hoping for several big deals with China's Xi Jinping, above, is ambiguous on whether it would defend Taiwan from any Chinese attack

A US air force F-22 Raptor involved in hits on Venezuela

> 'Even more outrageous is the tying of US business interests to almost all negotiations'

has pushed repeatedly this year for Washington to pull back its support for Taiwan. US officials say China's massive military build-up is explicitly intended to ensure it is ready to invade the island from 2027, though Chinese officials insist no such decision has been made.

According to some reports, the number of US troops and contractors on Taiwan now exceeds 500, although the Trump administration has returned to traditional US policy of "strategic ambiguity" over whether it might defend the island – reversing an explicit Biden administration pledge that the US military would move to defend Taiwan in the event of an attack.

China is another significant supporter of Maduro's Venezuela. The Chinese military will be watching closely for signs of US tactics and technology. Both the People's Liberation Army and US military increasingly believe they will fight one day, with the US worried that China's vast military stockpiles are superior to its own.

COLOMBIA AND CUBA: COULD BE NEW TARGET COUNTRIES FOR USA

SPEAKING late on Sunday, Trump appeared to suggest that Colombia might be next on his list for military intervention, describing its president Gustavo Petro as a "sick man" and accusing him of direct involvement in cocaine smuggling into the US.

That appears largely the same justification used for US actions in Venezuela. And the significant US military force used to support those strikes is relatively well placed for something similar in Colombia, although it has a significantly more powerful military, and Petro has vowed to fight off any such attack. Trump also suggested he believed Cuba's government was "ready to fall", something multiple US presidents have sought since Fidel Castro seized power in a Soviet-backed communist revolution in 1959. A covert effort by president John F. Kennedy to land anti-Castro rebels failed disastrously in 1961 at the Bay of Pigs, while a confrontation with the Soviet Union the following year over nuclear missiles on the island almost led to global war.

Cuba's president Miguel Diaz-Canel was one of the closest partners of Maduro's Venezuela, and the island might well find itself forced into financial crisis if Venezuela shuts off energy supplies under US pressure. One person likely to be encouraging this is US secretary of state Marco Rubio, who is of Cuban descent and said this week he would be "worried" if he was in Cuba's government.

CANADA AND MEXICO: MIXED APPROACH TO NEIGHBOURS NORTH AND SOUTH

AMERICA'S two closest neighbours have found themselves at odds with the Trump administration over different topics, and the US president identifies Mexican president Claudia Sheinbaum as a leader who should learn to "behave" in the aftermath of his Venezuela action.

The White House has warned it could undertake military action within Mexico now it has designated some criminal cartels as terror groups – the same early justification of its initial airstrikes against suspected Venezuelan vessels. Despite talk of making Canada the "51st US state", Trump has ruled out military action – but its PM Mark Carney is working overtime to build relations with Europe in the event of a confrontation.

EUROPE: BETWEEN SEVERAL ROCKS AND HARD PLACES

THIS fast-shifting world feels appallingly uncomfortable for Europe. Having questioned the transatlantic security relationship on which the continent has relied since the Second World War, the Trump administration appears bent on tearing up the entire global international law framework within which Europe is viewed as central to the US's engagement with the world.

European leaders have been desperate to avoid an open spat with Trump, particularly over the handling of Ukraine, and they have increasingly bent over backwards to praise the US leader for awakening their nations to spend more on their own defence.

For all that, the US military remains central to the defence of Europe – as well as the extended nuclear deterrence provided by nuclear weapons on the continent.

GREENLAND: THE CRISIS THAT COULD END NATO

TRUMP'S talk of seizing Greenland began in his first term, when he suggested he wanted to buy the frozen land from its Danish rulers, and was immediately rebuffed.

Shortly before his inauguration last year, he returned more aggressively to the same topic, even suggesting the potential use of force. Such rhetoric has returned this week, particularly from White House deputy chief of staff Stephen Miller, whose wife posted an image of Greenland painted in the US flag's colours on her social media account.

Speaking to CNN this week, Miller suggested no European countries would fight the US over Greenland – and claimed the Trump administration viewed it as a potential victory in a world where military power overrules international law.

BRITAIN: HOPING THE PROBLEM WILL DISAPPEAR

PM KEIR Starmer has made it clear he did not speak to Trump before the Venezuela action, while ministers have refused to give a "running commentary" on resulting UK policy. That has prompted predictable calls from Labour, Liberal Democrats and Conservatives to take a tougher line, while Reform's Nigel Farage has suggested the US's actions are likely illegal under international law yet still desirable if they reinforce deterrence against potential future hostile action from Moscow or Beijing.

Britain later joined European leaders supporting Denmark, but next steps remain unclear. Officials will not want to make themselves hostage to fortune.

● *Peter Apps' forthcoming book, The Next World War: The New Age of Global Conflict, is published on January 29*

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Picture: JACK DAVISON

VOGUE
GOLDEN HOUR

Jessie's so in vogue as Hamnet lead lady

JESSIE Buckley is flying the flag for new mothers everywhere as she puts having a baby ahead of possible Oscar success.

Ignoring her role in Hamnet, which is tipped for a Best Actress nomination, she says her daughter is the most "seismic" thing to have happened to her.

"Being pregnant, and becoming a mother, I felt like a sort of giant," she told British Vogue. Jessie, 36, who is the magazine's February cover star, lives in Norfolk with her husband and baby.

She said her breakthrough as a contestant on BBC1's I'd Do Anything in 2008 was "brutal. There was a lot that was really messed up. A lot of body shaming."

Hamnet – for which she won best actress at the Critics Choice Awards, *left* – hits cinemas on Friday.

● *British Vogue is on sale via digital download and on newsstands from January 20.*

Jessie gracing the pages of British Vogue and, aged 17, on I'd Do Anything, inset left

'Police knew extremists planned to attack Jewish fans at match'

Badenoch says Chief Constable must now resign

BY **MICHAEL KNOWLES** Home Affairs Editor

KEMI Badenoch said the West Midlands Chief Constable's position is untenable after his force admitted Israeli football fans were banned because locals planned an ambush.

Maccabi Tel Aviv supporters were stopped from travelling to Birmingham for a match against Aston Villa in November after police claimed some were violent hooligans.

But in a bombshell report yesterday, the force admitted it actually feared locals – some armed – were plotting to attack Israeli fans.

Tory leader Mrs Badenoch said: "West Midlands Police capitulated to Islamists and then collaborated with them to cover it up.

"They knew extremists were planning to attack Jews for going to a football match, and their response was to blame and remove Jewish people instead. They presented an inversion of reality and misled a Parliamentary committee.

"We have had enough of this in Britain. The Chief Constable's position is untenable. The British Police serve the British public, not local sectarian interests."

Woman with Israel flag escorted by cops at Villa Park

Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood was last night facing fresh calls to sack embattled Craig Guildford. The Europa League fixture went ahead without the Israeli fans. Police had said 500 "hardcore Maccabi supporters" who were "very well organised, uncooperative and militaristic" were accused of carrying out "indiscriminate attacks on Muslim taxi drivers, flag burning, marches and Islamophobic chanting during a previous match in Amsterdam".

After the report was published, Lord Ian Austin of Dudley said that "instead of dealing with the racist extremists in Birmingham who were threatening violence, they lied about the reasons, blamed the Israelis and claimed the Jewish community supported it".

Tory MP Nick Timothy said: "When the home affairs select committee asked why vital information about the danger to Israelis was kept secret, the Chief Constable ludicrously said it was because he had not been asked for it." Lord Walney, a former independent adviser on political violence, added: "Not only did West Midlands police fabricate evidence on the supposed threat from Maccabi Tel Aviv fans 'by mistake', they've just admitted they sat on genuine intelligence that local armed gangs were preparing to attack the visiting fans."

The report reveals police received "high confidence intelligence" on September 5 of locals talking of arming themselves. Mr Guildford vowed to reveal "a sanitised precis of every piece of intelligence" and insisted the decision to ban Maccabi fans was not due to political interference.

DAILY EXPRESS
One Canada Square, London E14 5AP
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We must remember why UK left the sclerotic EU

THE Daily Express is proud to have fought for Brexit and we will bring the same passion, pride and conviction to the battle to stop Sir Keir Starmer reversing Britain's historic decision to break free from the European Union.

It is bad enough that the UK's political class has lacked the imagination and courage to make the most of the opportunities won by leaving the EU.

And it is appalling that so many cowardly figures want to lock the country back in Brussels' orbit – this time as a rule-taker.

It is clear that Remainers want to set Britain's sat nav to return as a full member state.

Pressure is building for the UK to join a customs union with the EU.

But, once in, there would be calls for us to fully rejoin so we can play a role in formulating the red tape.

We urgently need to remember why we reclaimed our sovereignty from this sclerotic club.

Britain's economy must grow at a radically faster speed than it does today if we are to deliver the infrastructure and investment in public services that is sorely required.

We need to forge trade links with the most exciting emerging economies and strip away growth-killing regulations.

The Labour Party, led – lest we forget – by Jeremy Corbyn's former Shadow Brexit Secretary, is dominated by the bureaucrat class who prospered in our EU days.

Its ministers are plotting to align the UK with Brussels' laws on food and animal standards.

This must not be a first step in funnelling sovereignty back to the EU.

We have not forgotten how Remainers attempted to sabotage Brexit and defy the will of Britons.

Britain is not destined to decline. A better future is possible thanks to the brave independence of the 17.4 million people who voted Leave.

The Express is ready to defend that historic decision, whatever it takes.

Put brakes on prejudice

CARS are a lifeline for many of the nation's most experienced drivers. Every day, millions of older citizens safely drive a car to the shops, to meet friends, to pick up grandchildren and to attend medical appointments.

Proposals to introduce mandatory eye tests for drivers over 70 sound sensible but it is vital that the rules are scrutinised carefully so the elderly do not become victims of discrimination.

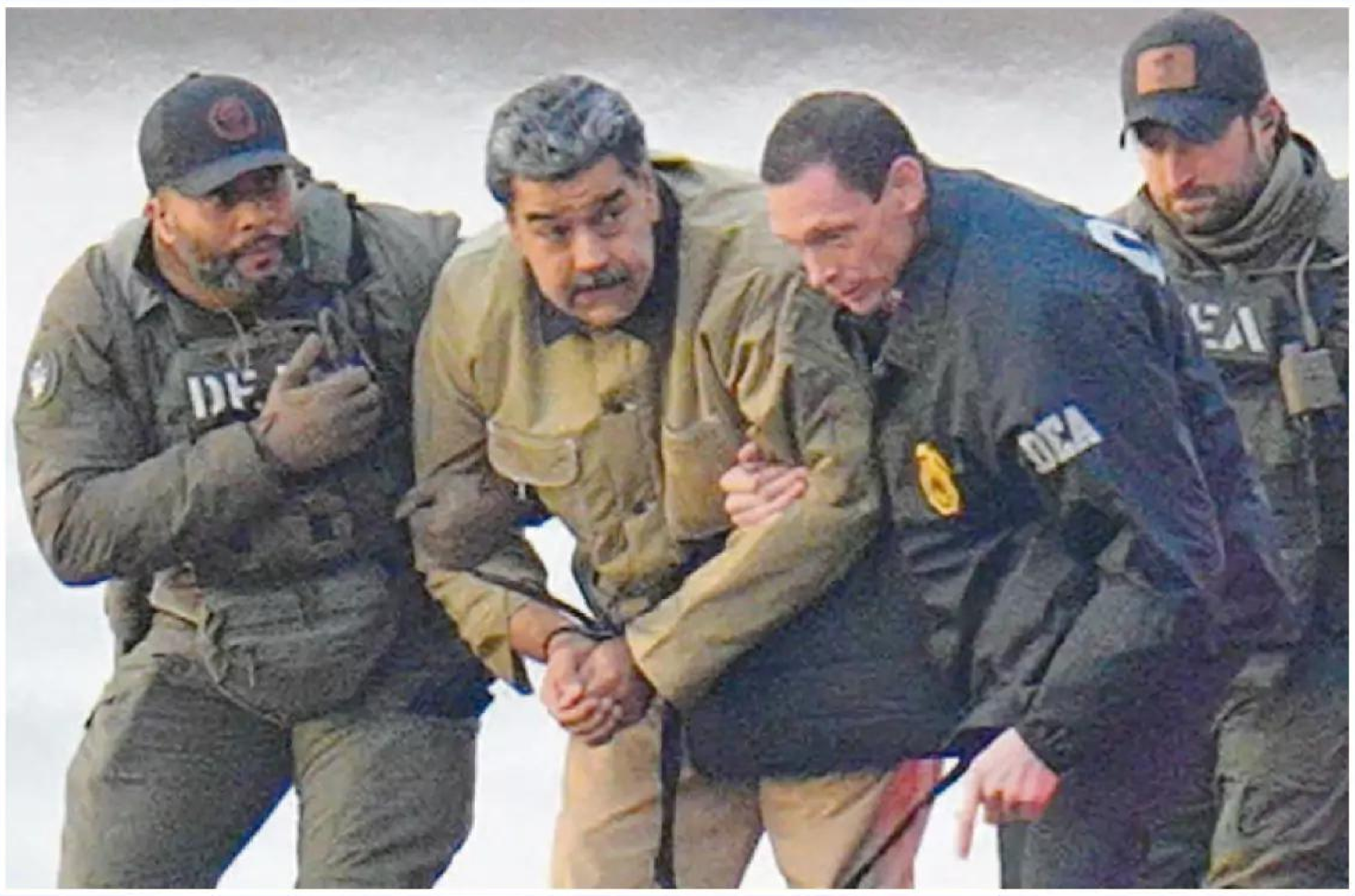
Safe drivers must not be forced off the roads, no matter how old they are.

The even bigger freeze...

A SNOW storm is coming as the cold blast continues. The temptation is to hunker down indoors but it is at these times of low temperatures and icy pavements that we should make sure vulnerable neighbours have everything they need.

Britons excel at keeping calm and carrying on in the face of adversity. We also need to keep warm and help keep others safe, if we can.

Trump's decisive power play makes world a safer place



Federal agents take captured Maduro, 2nd left, to a court in New York this week

Tim Newark

Political commentator

A RECENT poll revealed that Germans, French and Britons consider Donald Trump a stronger and more decisive leader than their own heads of state – by 74%, 73% and 69% respectively. Without doubt, the US president has set the international pace in the Middle East and Ukraine and is now securing his country against rogue narco-states.

Keir Starmer and his French buddy Emmanuel Macron are great ones for so-called rules-based world order, as it means lots of international travel and photo ops. It makes them feel important but achieves little. Have international laws stopped fighting in the Middle East or Ukraine? Have they stopped aggression backed by Iran, China and Russia?

The reason no one pays attention to Britain, France or Germany any more is that they are weak. Their economies are faltering and they are reluctant to project military and political hard power around the world. Trump understands that and is doing everything he can to build US economic might and deploy his weapons abroad.

US-combined arms managed to neutralise Russian-supplied defence systems to extract outlaw dictator Nicolas Maduro. The photo of him manacled and blindfolded must be sending shivers throughout the palaces of the world's tyrants.

IN 2026, no one is immune from American judgment. Talk is cheap, but action is better. Israel had to depend on its own superlative military technology to strike back at Hamas and every other Iranian-backed foe on its borders, and now, with US backing, is at the heart of securing a meaningful peace in the Middle East.

Trump's missile strike against Iranian nuclear facilities was the final blow, and now that oppressive regime is being shaken by its own people rising up.

At each stage of the recent Middle Eastern conflict, Britain and the rest of the "woke alliance" called for restraint and moderation, not understanding that would prolong the agony. Only America offered decisive action and pulled together moderate Arab states alongside Israel to create peace in the region.

When Argentina invaded the Falklands in 1982, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher did not hesitate to send British troops to the other side of the world, rather than wait for endless international arbitration.

It was her decisiveness and complete military success that impressed the rest of the world, especially US president Ronald Reagan, and together they stood united against the USSR, eventually ending the Cold War with complete victory.

To give him his due, Barack Obama didn't hesitate to send special forces into Pakistan territory in 2011 to deliver American justice to terrorist leader Osama bin Laden. When an extraction was not to be, they simply killed the mass murderer.

Did many Left-wingers object to that?

Venezuela was without doubt harbouring many malign players, including Hezbollah and Hamas training centres. Russia, China and Iran are only complaining about the US action because it knocks out one of their key Latin American allies and denies them the cheap oil and mischief-making they got in return for weapons.

Left-wingers in Britain are up in arms because Maduro supposedly headed a socialist regime and was one of their own – despite impoverishing his people, which is quite a feat in an oil-rich country.

He had already been "invaded" by foreign influences including Cuba – another failed socialist state.

Starmer is to be applauded if he manages to resist the pressure of his backbench MPs to condemn the US. Despite being a cheerleader for international human rights, he knows it would be a spectacular own goal to prefer virtue-signalling over real power and influence.

At the moment, he's managed to pull off the feat of being on the right side of Trump but, as this action in Venezuela shows, you really don't want to be on the wrong side.

THIS year the US celebrates its 250th anniversary, and for much of that time it has been a beacon for liberty in the West. Its constant willingness to stand up against tyrants has been based on its massive economic and military superiority.

When we are making ourselves intentionally weak through net zero and socialist tax and spend, we need even more to stand by them. You may or may not like Trump but his decisive power play is making the world safer for the West, and I would not want to live in a world dominated by the communist tyranny of China.

'Margaret Thatcher didn't wait for endless international arbitration'

Vanessa Feltz

FROM THE HEART

Criminal to lose Fun Lovin' Huey

DJ HUEY Morgan is following in the footsteps of Chris Evans and leaving the BBC for Virgin Radio. He joins a distinguished roster of disgruntled BBC talent – Ken Bruce and Simon Mayo – ditching Auntie for broader opportunities.

Morgan, below, doesn't enjoy BBC-bashing but his terse explanation speaks volumes. "I'd been at the BBC for 18 years and opportunities clearly weren't what they were, it wasn't hard for me to just move and be part of a network that wants me to be a part of them."

Steve Wright was stripped of his afternoon show. Paul O'Grady was banished from his Sunday teatime slot. No other broadcaster is as successful in making presenters feel disposable. I finally headed for the hills after 20 years on BBC London Breakfast and 12 on Radio 2's Early Breakfast.

The stand-in Director General should have been on his knees begging Huey to stay.

Why men love the sound of silence

NO WOMAN will ever understand what men discuss with other men in the absence of females. Quiz the bloke in your life about his golf course chat with a pal and you draw a blank.

Now a study by Thomas Yarrow, professor of anthropology at Durham University, suggests men don't "open up" because they don't want to and don't need to.

Emotional support between chaps can stem from shared activities and silence. Ladies, he doesn't know anything. Doesn't want to know anything. And he's happy as a clam about it.

Classless Keir and the politics of envy

ONE hundred and five independent schools have closed as a direct result of the Government's imposition of VAT on fees. So far, so tragically predictable. The question, of course, is who this cruel cull benefits and how? Twenty-five thousand children have been forced into the state system, instantly adding vastly to the Department for Education's already overwhelming financial burden.

Thousands of teachers, teaching assistants, heads and support staff have lost their jobs. Decades, in some cases centuries, of tradition, contribution to communities and devotion to Latin, botany, scripture, hymn-singing and Shakespeare callously killed.

Keir Starmer and Rachel Reeves knew precisely what they were doing. They were aware most private school pupils are neither rich nor rarefied. Despite flights of rhetorical fancy conjuring tales of untold wealth and ivory-towered privilege designed to ignite the politics of envy, the unglamorous truth is most fee-paying parents really struggle on average-to-low incomes to secure their children what they believe is a better start in life.

Far from being scions of aristocratic dynasties they are ordinary mums and dads, many first or second generation British. Ironically, the very same "hardworking folk" Starmer and Reeves claim to cherish. They were prepared to forgo holidays and fancy cars to send their children to schools they hoped would nurture their potential, instil discipline and – most importantly – give them the confidence to mix comfortably in different social circles.

The speedy closure of once-thriving schools proves they were never oases for oligarchs. Parents who can't stretch to forking out an additional 20% on fees are hardly awash with cash.

I remember my own dad bewailing the strain of paying for my London direct grant day school. He ran a one-man-band underwear importing business. My best friend's father drove a taxi. Several parents manned corner shops. They put in the hours, earned the money and decided to spend it on private education. What, in the name of the Lord, is wrong with that?

Starmer and Reeves should be ashamed of the destruction they have deliberately inflicted upon scholars, pedagogues and those with laudable aspirations. Isn't the UK a proudly capitalist society? Aren't we supposed to have the freedom to choose how we spend our money? Private schools did nobody any harm and generations of children incalculable good. RIP.

Home alone? Not Laurence and family

WILL people please stop sticking it to lovely Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen for his delectable life choice.

LL-B and his effervescent wife Jackie live under the same roof as their two married daughters, sons-in-law, and their four grandchildren in their six-bedroom Cotswold manor house. Lucky them.

I can't think of anything I'd adore more. What's the point in my cooking dinner and my two daughters both toiling at separate stoves while we stump up for three mortgages? Wouldn't it be much more fun and sensible to muck in?

Don't take potshots at Laurence. He is 100% living the dream.

I'M THE mother of two girls and the grandma of two more, so I'm no stranger to the pink themed birthday cake. Sweet memories include a handful of ballet-inspired cakes adorned with tutu-wearers.

So why do I have something to say about Brooklyn Beckham's wife Nicola Peltz celebrating her 31st with a ballerina themed party and a pink ballerina cake?

I'll tell you why. Most girls grow out of the ballet phase by the age of eight.

By birthday number nine they've swapped ballet shoes for astrophysics or football and wouldn't be seen dead blowing out candles on a ballet cake. Nicola Peltz is in her fourth decade. Is she so infantilised that she insists on a party identical to Cecily, my three-year-old granddaughter?

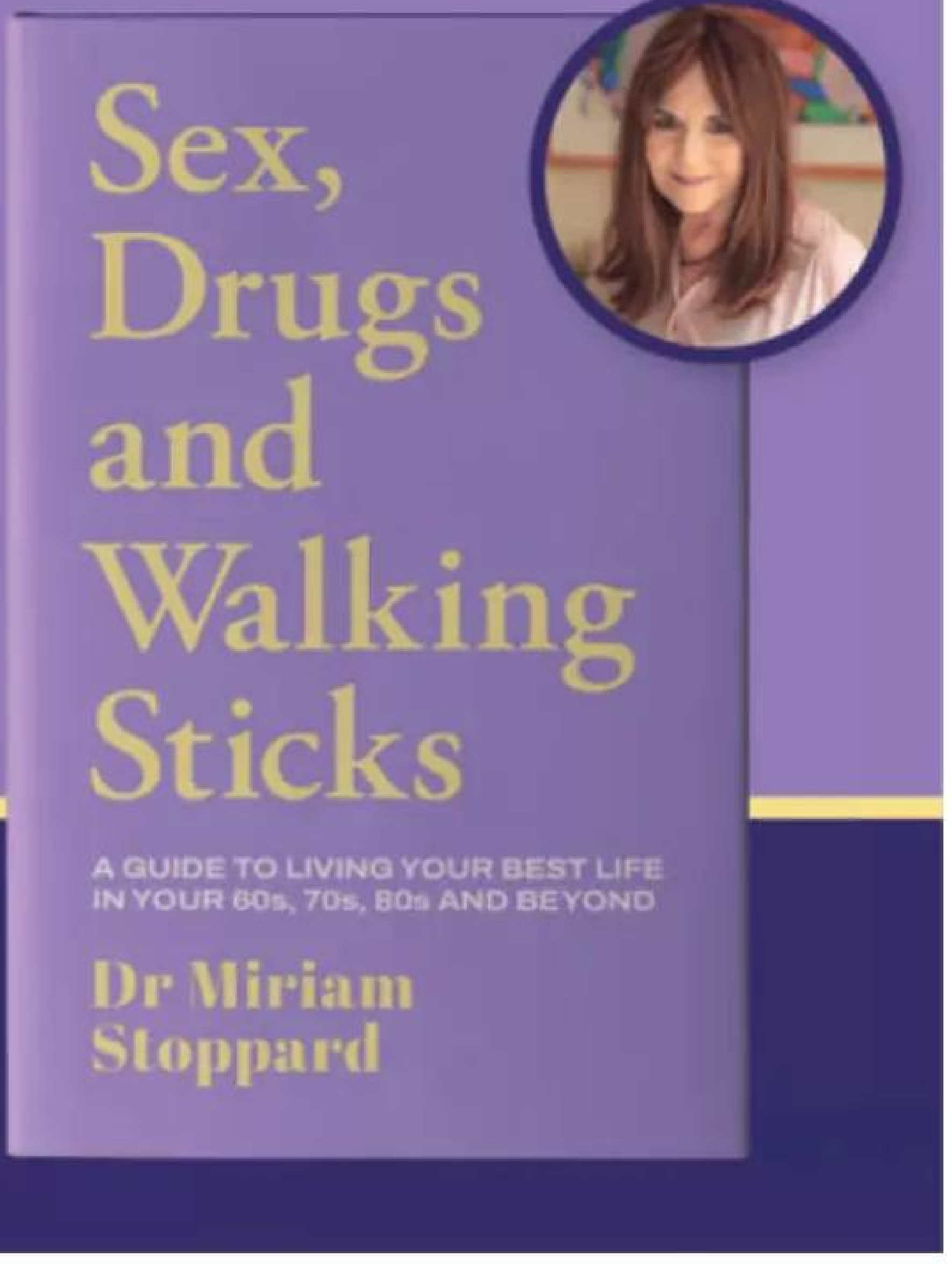
Why doesn't her no-nonsense billionaire father Nelson tell her to grow the heck up?

I'LL BE PUTTING MYSELF ABOUT QUITE A BIT THIS YEAR!

IF YOU spotted the headline Nessie's Not There and thought it might be referring to yours truly, let me assure you although I've been lying low in my beloved East Cork for the festive season, try though you might, there'll be no avoiding me in 2026. Vanessa is back on Channel 5 every weekday at 2pm with a spirited mix of current affairs, relationships, politics, family life and sizzling celebrities.

I'll be jousting jubilantly on LBC on Saturday afternoons from 3-6pm, agony-aunting at Best magazine and telling you what I really think right here in the Daily Express every Wednesday. Guess what? 2026 marks my quarter century as a columnist in this august newspaper. Yes, I know I don't look old enough! Well, not in the picture at the top of this page anyway. Let's not rush to update in celebration of 25 years. I'm perfectly happy with a bit of poetic licence.

DAILY EXPRESS SEE HOST JJ ANISIOBI AND GUESTS IN NEW EPISODES MONDAY TO FRIDAY ON THE EXPRESS YOUTUBE CHANNEL



Sex, Drugs and Walking Sticks

by Dr Miriam Stoppard

AMAZON

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A GUIDE TO LIVING YOUR BEST LIFE IN YOUR 60s, 70s, 80s AND BEYOND
Dr Miriam Stoppard

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Frances Millar

To be frank...

SATURDAY jobs have been in decline since Covid and Rachel Reeves' tax hikes are making it worse. Gone are the days when a teenager could wander into the nearest hairdressers and immediately be handed a broom.

Now, fewer than one in five 16- and 17-year-olds are in work, compared with nearly half at the start of the century. Around a million people aged 16-24 are classed as NEET (not in education, employment or training) and bosses complain school leavers are useless when they start work because they've had no entry-level experience.

With wage costs rising, employers are less willing to take a punt on a teenager who needs spoon-feeding. From April, the hourly rate for 16- and 17-year-olds rises to £8, while the 18-20 rate jumps to £10.85. A pay boost is good on paper, and nobody should work for free, but if businesses respond by cutting shifts or hiring fewer staff, young people are still losing out.

Everyone had a Saturday job when I was a teen. The high street was powered by spotty teenagers from school. Getting a job wherever would take you on was a rite of passage. Paper rounds, stacking shelves, supermarkets, pot washing, we all did something.

My first job was silver service in a banquet hall. And I learned a lot quickly. Lifelong lessons like don't tilt the tray when it's loaded with steaming veg, and if you ask the chef a stupid question mid-service, you'll need calamine lotion after a roasting. And though I never mastered the fiddly fork-and-spoon silver service technique, I found my calling in my next job.

Pulling pints under pressure is my superpower. A skill I honed during the Gaelic football season, when the pub would be rammed with tipsy Irish blokes barking orders, and if you poured a bad pint of Guinness, begorra, you'd know about it. The work hard, work fast ethos has served me well later as a tabloid news editor.

Because a Saturday job isn't only about money. It's your first step into the real world. Turn up late, mess people about, phone in sick with a fake croaky voice, it's not going in a register and there's no detention.

It's bye bye NEET (no excuses, exit's there).

FOR what seems like decades now, any half-decent British actor with a sharp jawline has been on the shortlist for the next Bond. James Norton, Henry Cavill, Aaron Taylor-Johnson, Regé-Jean Page… the speculation has dragged on for so long that one-time favourite Idris Elba has now got grey hair and a knighthood.

Recently, the chatter has coalesced around a new frontrunner: Callum Turner, pictured below. Not exactly a household name but no matter, Bond is a kingmaker. Add in the fact his fiancee, Dua Lipa, is tipped for the theme tune, and you've got a ready-made publicity machine for the franchise's next chapter. It will be the first film under Amazon's stewardship, so producers will be under immense pressure to make it a success.

After the po-faced seriousness of Daniel Craig's 007, I'm crossing my fingers for a return to the silliness of the Roger Moore era. Underwater cars, deadly yo-yos, killer hats, fight sequences set to disco and eyebrow acting so camp it deserves an awards category of its own.

★ **TESCO is reviving its blue-and-white striped Value range more than a decade after ditching it. Britain's biggest supermarket scrapped it after conceding some customers simply didn't want to be seen buying it. But that was then and in 2026 things have changed**

Greggs, Lidl and Aldi have all released limited-edition clothing ranges splashed with their logos, and they've sold out because "normcore" is cool. Besides, after years of cost-of-living pain, nobody is going to be sniffy about a bargain, and now you can have it delivered straight to your door. No one even needs to know you're bulk-buying Value bog roll.

frances.millar@express.co.uk

Motorist is guilty after boy's death

BY **SAM RUSSELL**

A SPEEDING driver who lost control of his car and hit two teenage boys walking to school, killing one and seriously injuring the other, has pleaded guilty to dangerous driving

Stephen Mahebadevan was travelling at more than double the 30mph speed limit before he lost control of his car on a bend and mounted a footpath, police said.

Freddie Coleman, 15, died after being knocked into the path of an oncoming van. The second boy suffered life-changing injuries.

Mahebadevan, 26, of Chelmsford, Essex, pleaded guilty at the city's crown court on Monday to causing death and serious injury by dangerous driving in the village of Stock on November 3, 2023.

Det Sgt Sam Nason, of Essex Police, praised the "patience, dignity and restraint shown by the families in their long wait for justice and answers".

Mahebadevan will be sentenced at the same court on February 6.

Learning key to battling depression

BY **STEPHEN BEECH**

A WILLINGNESS to learn boosts well-being in middle-aged people, research shows.

They are better at handling stress and less likely to suffer loneliness or depression – even during upheaval.

American researchers found a link between continued skill learning and better mental health early in the pandemic.

Participants who challenged themselves did not necessarily feel happier in the moment.

But a year later, they reported greater resilience to external stress than peers who had not spent time learning new things.

Scientists say their findings, published in the journal PLOS Mental Health, underline the long-term value of maintaining curiosity.

Professor Rachel Wu, from University of California, Riverside, said: "Learning can be difficult and uncomfortable in the short-term.

"But that short-term discomfort actually helps protect us in the long run."

Eye test for over-70s drivers under fire

Mandatory checks part of safety strategy

BY **FRANCES MILLAR**

Drivers over 70 would be forced to have eye tests under the plans

CAMPAIGNERS have hit out at plans to introduce mandatory eye tests for drivers over 70, warning the move could force careful and competent motorists off the road.

Potential eye tests and cognitive checks for older drivers are among measures that the government will consult on as part of its road safety strategy, published today.

It aims to cut deaths and injuries involving older drivers while avoiding unnecessary restrictions on mobility and personal freedom, ministers say.

The strategy intends to cut deaths and serious injuries on our roads by 65% within 10 years, and by 70% for children under 16. About 24% of car drivers killed in 2024 were 70 or older, and 12% of casualties in car collisions involved older drivers.

'There's the potential for thousands to be forced off the road'

But Dennis Reed, director of campaign group Silver Voices, said targeting motorists over 70 risked being discriminatory and could create practical problems that leave drivers unable to renew their licences on time.

Mr Reed said: "Although we support the principle of regular eyesight tests for all drivers, to introduce it for the over-70s only smacks of age discrimination. We will be looking closely at the details , for example who does the tests, who pays for them, and is there the capacity to meet demand.

"There is the potential for thousands of careful and competent drivers being forced off the road because they can't get the necessary eyesight tests in time for their renewals."

Local transport minister Lilian Greenwood said: "We know driving can be very important for older people's wellbeing and help them to live independently, but we must also make sure everyone is safe on our roads.

"Our plans in the first road safety strategy in more than a decade will preserve personal freedoms where possible with action to save lives."

The Department for Transport strategy could also include uninsured drivers facing higher fines and tougher penalties in a bid to make fixed-penalty fines significantly higher than average premium costs.

The upfront fine could double to £600 under proposed changes.

AA chief Edmund King said: "A move to make eye tests for older drivers mandatory is welcome, especially as the likelihood of crashes increases once someone is over the age of 70 and markedly shoots up over the age of 80 to a peak at age 86, with eyesight often a worrying factor.

"Eye tests are free for people over 60 and healthcare professionals advise them every two years."

Drivers are currently not subjected to mandatory checks of their skills or health once they get their licence, no matter how old they become.

But they are required to inform the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency if they are no longer fit to drive. Last year Senior Coroner for Lancashire Dr James Adeley sent a prevention of future deaths report to Transport Secretary Heidi Alexander relating to the deaths of four people killed by drivers with failing eyesight.

Dr Adeley wrote: "Self-reporting of visual conditions permits drivers to lie about their current driving status to those performing an ophthalmic assessment and avoid warnings not to drive. Drivers may also admit they drive but then ignore instructions not to drive and fail to notify the DVLA."

OPINION: PAGE 12

Vegetables can slow prostate cancer growth

BY **ELLA PICKOVER**

A diet of veg and probiotics, which are found in yoghurt, can impede tumours and boost overall health

A DIET rich in veg and probiotics could reduce the growth of low-risk prostate cancer, a study has shown.

Researchers developed a supplement made from broccoli, turmeric, pomegranate, green tea, ginger and cranberry and a probiotic – which are living edible microbes.

Some 212 men with low-risk prostate cancer were recruited to the study. Half were given the supplement and a placebo.

The other half were given the supplement and the special probiotic. Common probiotics include yoghurts and cottage cheese.

Researchers, led by the University of Bedfordshire along with experts from Cambridge University Hospitals and Bedford Hospital, then measured prostate-specific antigen in blood. The PSA test can indicate prostate cancer or an enlarged prostate. Writing in the European Urology Oncology journal, the authors found a "significant slowing of progression in PSA" following dietary changes among men with low-risk prostate cancer.

They said that their study is also the first to show "additional intervention" of the probiotic "significantly reduced PSA progression as well as serum markers of inflammation further".

Prof Robert Thomas, a consultant clinical oncologist, said: "This study shows improving the balance of bacteria in the gut can slow prostate cancer activity while also improving important aspects of men's health such as urinary symptoms, inflammation and physical strength."

Dr Hayley Luxton, of Prostate Cancer UK, said: "This study is encouraging and adds to growing research into how diet and gut health can affect prostate cancer.

"It suggests healthier diets could lead to better outcomes for some men while improving their overall wellbeing."

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Kayleigh Robson was in court

Jail officer accused of affairs with prisoners

BY **SASKIA ROWLANDS**

A PRISON officer had relationships with inmates and smuggled drugs into jail, a court heard.

Warder Kayleigh Robson, 29, had inappropriate romances with lags from June 2020 to February 2021, it is alleged. She is also said to have smuggled cannabis and tobacco into the privately run HMP Peterborough in Cambridgeshire between July 2020 and April 2021.

And she is accused of being involved in a money-laundering plot at the category-B facility.

The charge sheet alleged misconduct that "amounted to an abuse of the public's trust".

Robson, a mum of one, pleaded not guilty to misconduct in a public office, smuggling contraband and money-laundering yesterday.

Contraband

Robson, of Grantham, Lincs appeared at Cambridge crown court alongside three men, with two others set to appear at later proceedings.

Adam Hussain, 28, Ashley Neal, 30, and Roy Shalliker, 67, denied conspiring to bring contraband into HMP Peterborough. Hussain and Neal also denied money-laundering.

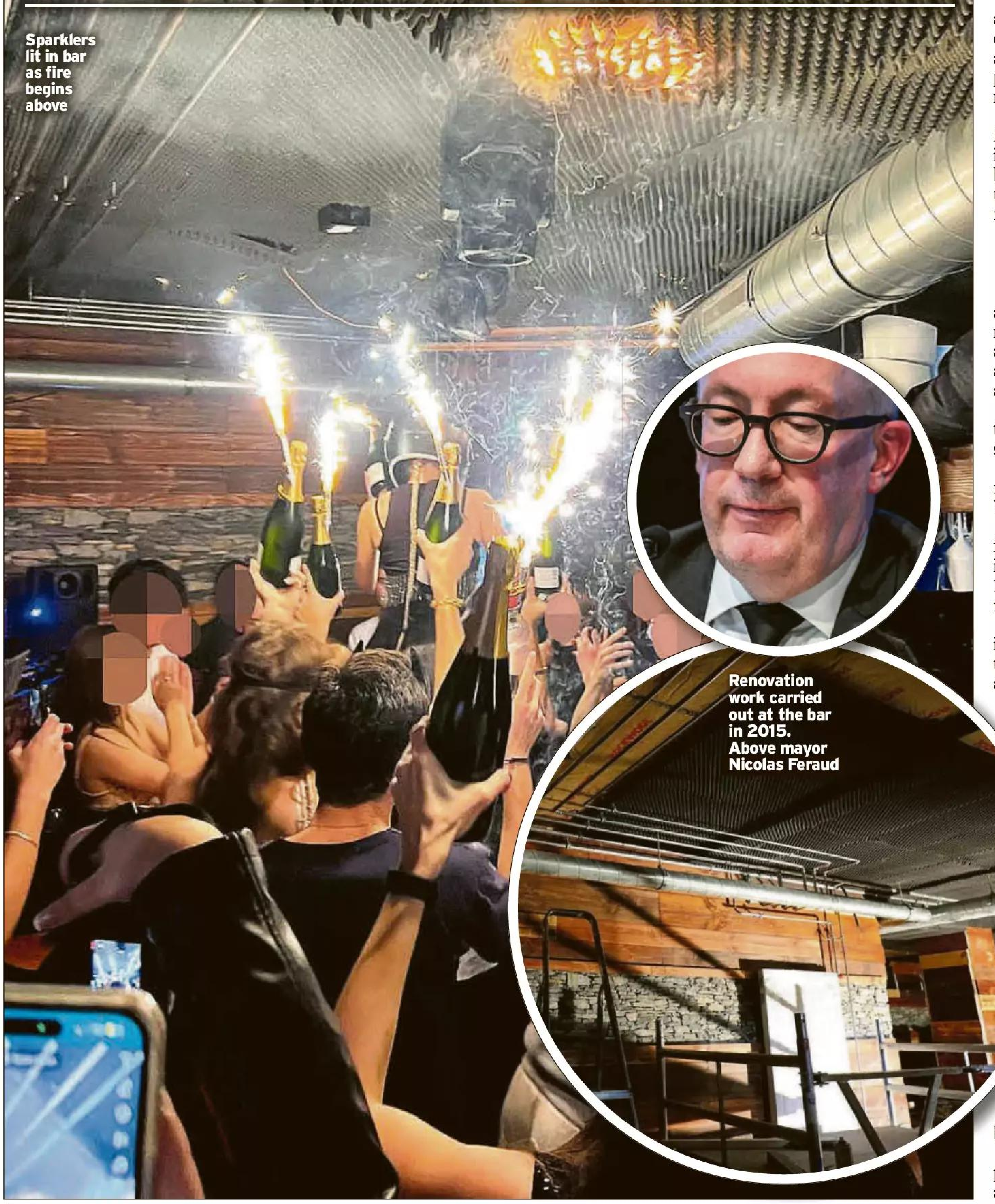
Robson and her co-defendants were granted bail with a two-week trial scheduled to begin on April 19, 2027 at Huntingdon crown court.

Judge Philip Grey apologised to the defendants for the wait, explaining: "As you may know, the courts have an enormous backlog.

"That is simply the first date on which we can accommodate a two-week trial."

NYE inferno bar last had safety checks five years ago

Soundproof panels analysed over blaze link



Sparklers lit in bar as fire begins above

Renovation work carried out at the bar in 2015. Above mayor Nicolas Feraud

Coffin of Italian victim at airport in Sion

BY **PHIL CARDY**

THE Swiss ski bar where 40 people were killed in a New Year's Day blaze had not had any safety checks for more than five years, it emerged yesterday.

Pictures from inside Le Constellation show the ceiling was covered in sound-proofing panels, which are believed to have caught fire from sparklers in champagne bottles.

Nicolas Feraud, mayor of the resort village Crans-Montana, admitted there had not been any safety inspections of the party venue since 2019.

Authorities are looking into whether soundproofing material on the ceiling conformed with regulations and whether the sparkling candles were permitted for use in the bar.

Mr Feraud could not explain why safety inspections had not been conducted for such a long time.

He said that in September last year an external expert had been asked to carry out a soundproofing analysis and had concluded that the bar complied with anti-noise rules. However no other checks were carried out.

Mr Feraud said: "We are profoundly sorry. We did not have an indication that the checks had not been done. We regret that. We owe it to the families and we will accept the responsibility."

Victims

He said authorities would have acted immediately had they been made aware of any safety concerns, adding: "It is very easy to come and scream now at us but how about before?"

Most of the dead victims were teenagers while another 116 people suffered severe burns in the inferno.

The mayor said he would not be resigning, adding: "I don't want to. We're not departing the ship.

He said there was a team of just five people who carry out checks in the area, looking after over 10,000 buildings including restaurants and hotels.

The council's investigation will include an audit of all venues the area and ensure more checks are done.

Mr Feraud said it is up to the judges to determine who is responsible.

Prosecutors say the fire, which spread rapidly in the early hours of January 1, was likely caused by sparklers igniting the ceiling of the bar's basement.

All sparkler candles have now been banned inside venues, said the mayor.

Swiss authorities have opened a criminal investigation into the bar's managers, Jacques and Jessica Moretti. They are suspected of involuntary homicide, involuntary bodily harm and involuntarily causing a fire.

So far the French couple have not been formally charged.

More than two-thirds of the 116 people injured are still in hospital, according to authorities.

Footballer Gordon McQueen

McQueen's heading link to decline

BY **DAVE HIGGEN**

FOOTBALLER Gordon McQueen told his family "heading a football for all those years probably hasn't helped" after he developed dementia, his inquest has heard.

The Scotland, Manchester United and Leeds star died at his North Yorkshire home in June 2023, aged 70.

Hayley McQueen told an inquest in Northallerton her father suffered concussions in matches, adding, "they would just head back out and play".

And the TV host, 46, recalled how her father would come home from training and lie down in a darkened room with a headache.

He was diagnosed with vascular dementia in 2021. The inquest is due to last three days.

Sufferer Andre Yarham

Man dies at 24 with rare dementia

BY **FAYE MAYERN**

BRITAIN'S youngest dementia sufferer, who had the brain of a 70-year-old, has died at the age of 24.

Andre Yarham was given the rare diagnosis after his family noticed he was moving and speaking very slowly.

The car worker, from Norwich, was among just 0.1% of the population to receive a form of dementia diagnosis aged under 65.

His mother Sam Fairbairn has donated Andre's brain to science to battle the disease.

She said: "Andre was a cheeky lad with a great sense of humour and a heart of gold.

"If Andre can help just one family have a few more years with a loved one, that would mean the world."

Picture: OLLIE THOMPSON/SOLENT NEWS

Ceno shared Highfield House with a hotel that is said to be housing over 100 asylum seekers

'Impossible' to keep restaurant open with 100 asylum seekers next door

BY **CHARLIE BRADLEY**

A RESTAURANT forced to close its doors after more than two decades has blamed the migrant hotel next door.

Asylum seekers have repeatedly damaged the Ceno Bar and Restaurant and made it "impossible to operate", a spokesman claimed.

Ceno shared a building with Highfield House hotel which is reportedly used to house 100 migrants in Southampton, Hants.

The hotel is the site of weekly anti-immigration protests. These tend to be met with counter-protests from anti-racism groups and there is often a heavy police presence.

A spokesman for the restaurant said: "It is with great sadness that we announce that Ceno Restaurant closed its doors on 1 January 2026. Despite every effort to continue trading, it has become frustratingly impossible to operate due to ongoing issues connected with the Highfield Hotel in which we are located, which has now become home to over 100 illegal immigrants."

The popular restaurant was successful for more than 20 years, with 4.6 stars on TripAdvisor and many glowing reviews.

Ceno claims the last five years have been especially challenging as the hotel stopped serving the public. There are plans to relocate the restaurant and reopen in the spring.

Southampton Stand Up To Racism group - which clashes with anti-immigration protests outside the hotel - said far-right activists were to blame.

It added: "Attempts to blame asylum seekers or the hotel for the bar's closure are misplaced and unfair.

"Ceno Bar traded successfully for years alongside the hotel. Its decline followed the start of sustained far-right activity last summer.

"Over recent months, their repeated demonstrations outside the hotel have caused serious disruption."

The Home Office said: "We will close every asylum hotel. Work is well under way, with more suitable sites being brought forward."

Hampshire Constabulary said: "Our local neighbourhood policing team have made near weekly visits to Ceno in recent months.

"However, no concerns have been raised with our team on these visits. We are also not aware of any incidents of criminal damage."

Migrants share TikTok tips on how to reach UK

BY **MICHAEL KNOWLES**
Home Affairs Editor

MIGRANTS are giving video tutorials on how to get into Britain by hiding on a lorry.

Footage posted on social media site TikTok shows asylum seekers chasing trucks then jumping aboard the space between the cab and trailer.

In each of the videos, a young man hides behind a bush or tree before risking his life.

All of the clips, which have been removed from the site, were edited into one longer "instruction manual".

Asylum charities said lorries were being targeted by migrants who could not afford the charges for crossing the Channel on small boats.

Reform's Lee Anderson said: "The fact that people are brazenly sharing videos on social media on how to smuggle themselves into the UK just goes to show how wide open our borders are.

"Only Reform has a plan to secure our borders and our communities.

"We will leave the ECHR and detain and deport those who illegally enter into our country."

Some 127 migrants were detected attempting to enter the UK in vehicles in the first nine months of 2025, compared to the 34,087 people who crossed the Channel on small boats during the same period.

Travelling by sea overtook trucks as the most common method during the pandemic in 2020.

But migrants in France have vowed to continue trying to reach our shores by lorry if they cannot afford a small boat crossing.

Mohamed, a Sudanese migrant in Calais, told InfoMigrants, a news platform for refugees, that sea crossings were not an option for him.

"I won't take one," he said. "I have nothing – no money, and no one to ask. I'm not going to try to get into a boat. There's no point in continuing to talk about it." He added that climbing on to a lorry "is the only option I have. I just watch for 'chemicals' signs on vehicle doors, that's all. Otherwise, I try to get into a heavy-goods vehicle any way I can, day or night".

Port security, however, means people-smuggling gangs have had to adopt more innovative methods.

They have used TikTok to advertise £18,000 deals for migrants to get into the UK as "second drivers". Takers are given fake documents to replace a registered second driver rather than the riskier method of hiding in the lorry.

The Home Office said: "We are relentless in our pursuit of people-smuggling gangs, including lorries.

"The Home Secretary has set out sweeping reforms to tackle illegal migration, removing incentives which draw people to the UK illegally and making it easier to remove and deport them. Our legislation and continued work with our French counterparts will disrupt people-smuggling gangs."

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Video clips have been edited into 'manual'

1 in 4 primary leavers struggle

Kid reading issues not known by 3 in 5 adults

BY **JASMINE NORDEN**

MANY adults are not aware of the scale of the primary school reading gap, a survey found.

A quarter of pupils leave Year 6 unable to read well, but nearly three in five adults are unaware of this.

Only a third of people polled knew one in eight kids aged five to eight do not own a book at home, said the Bookmark Reading Charity.

Pupils from poorer backgrounds are more likely to leave primary school unable to read.

While 81% of kids from more affluent backgrounds met the expected reading standard in their SATs last year, only 63% of disadvantaged pupils did.

Literacy

Bookmark Reading Charity found 94% of 2,000 adults felt more attention should be paid to the literacy gap.

The findings come amid a government drive to improve reading skills in pupils through a "national year of reading" in 2026.

Only around 10% of disadvantaged children who fall behind in their reading at primary school pass GCSE English and maths.

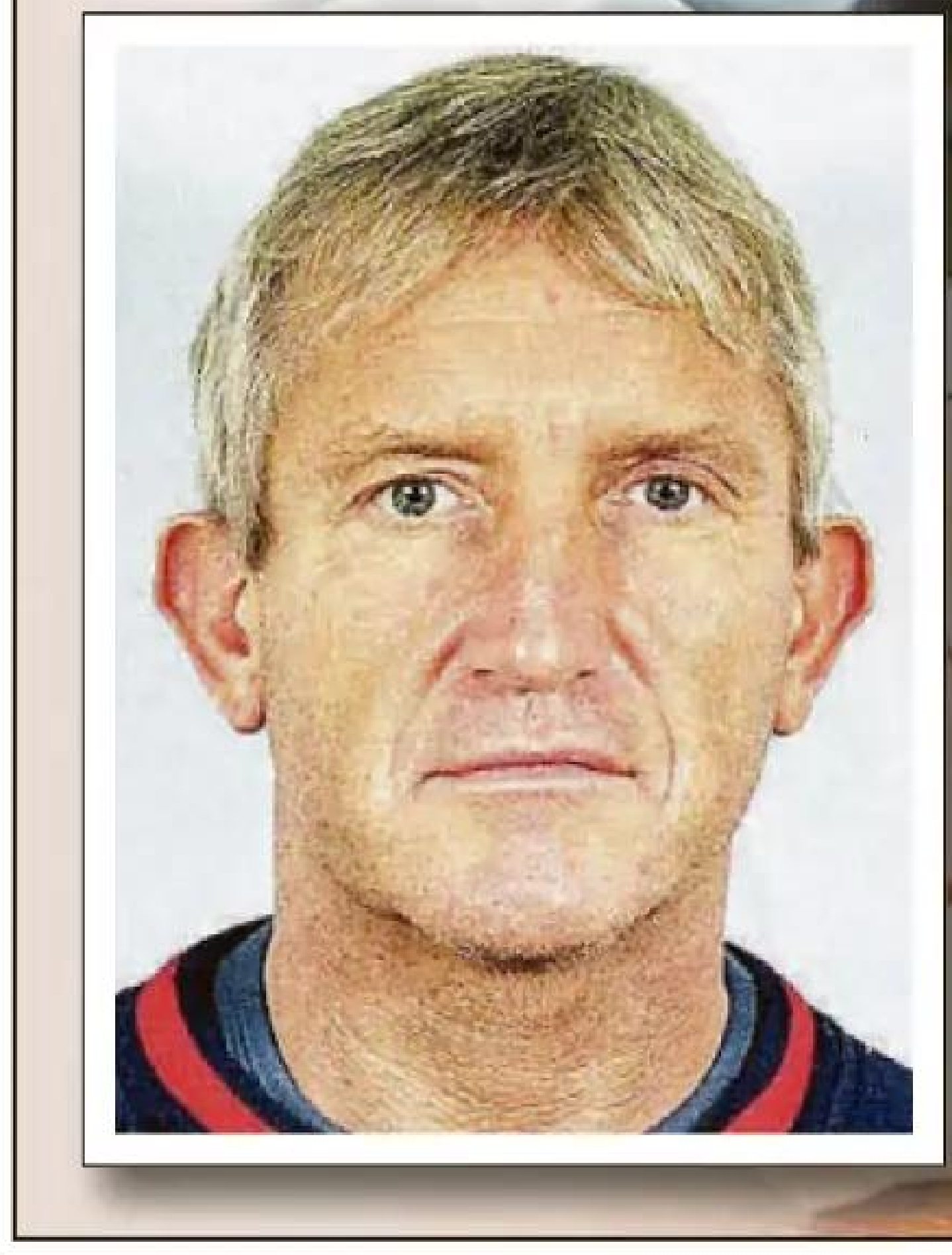
Alex Jones, The One Show host and reading campaign supporter, said: "If we all gave up just one hour per week to help a child struggling with their reading, the future of our next generation would look quite different."

Emily Jack, boss of Bookmark, said: "It's not just about doing well in exams. It's also about applying for jobs, self-esteem, confidence, boosting mental health and even ordering a coffee from a menu."

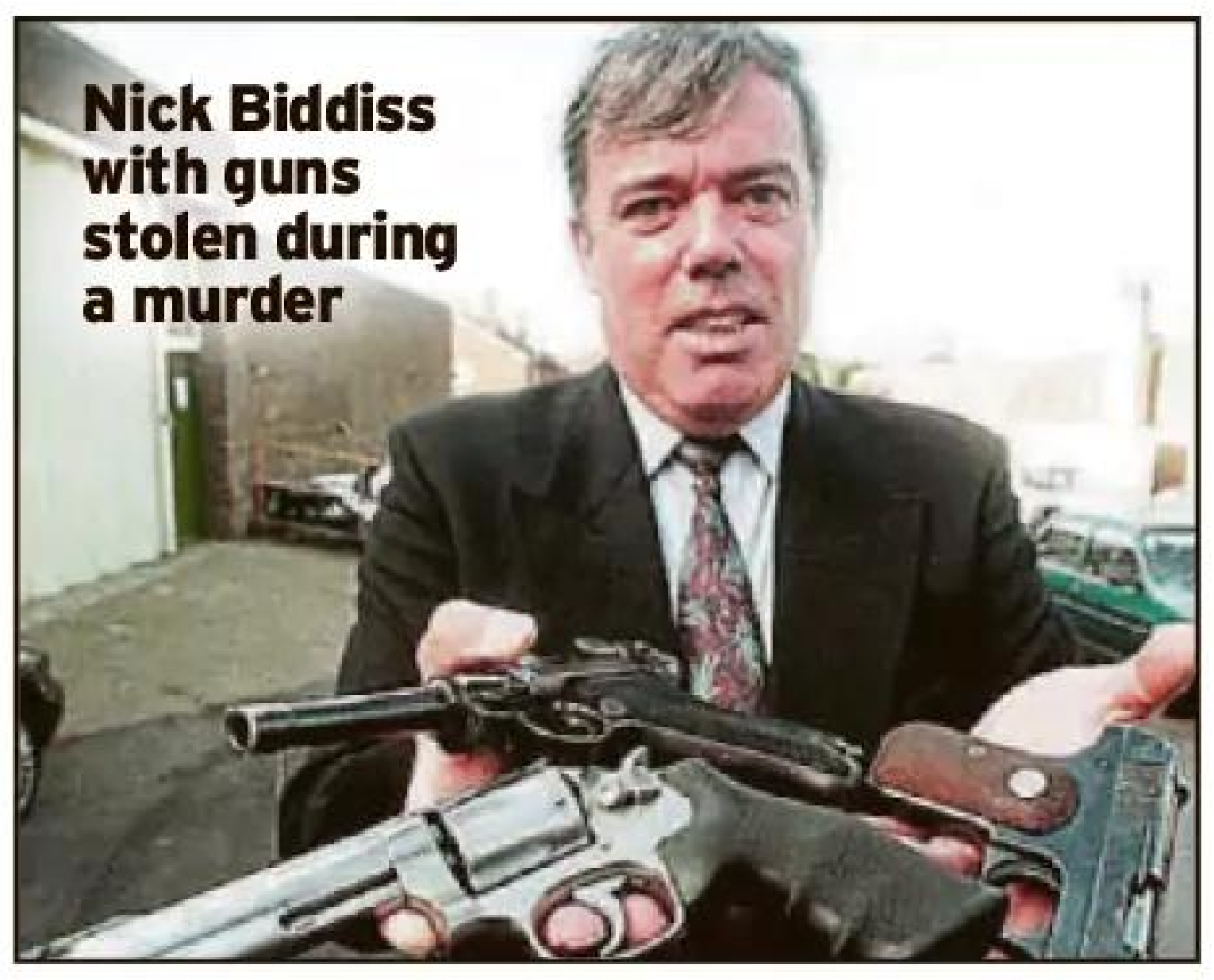
Policeman who caught road rage killer Kenneth Noye dies at 79

Detective tracked gangster to Spain after fatal stabbing

Det Supt Biddiss speaking about Noye



Tragic Stephen Cameron with brave girlfriend Danielle, above. Kenneth Noye's police mugshot, below



Nick Biddiss with guns stolen during a murder

BY **TOM PETTIFOR**

THE detective who snared Kenneth Noye has died as the brave teenager who helped jail the M25 killer continues to live in hiding 30 years on.

Former Detective Superintendent Nick Biddiss, who passed away aged 79 last month, tracked Noye down in Spain after he stabbed electrician Stephen Cameron, 21, to death in May 1996.

Danielle Cable was just 17 when she witnessed Noye's attack on her boyfriend during a road rage row.

But she helped Mr Biddiss and his team bring the gangster to justice, travelling to Spain to identify him and later testifying at the Old Bailey – despite mum Mandy urging her not to.

Now married with a daughter, she lives under an assumed identity for fear of a revenge attack and can only see her parents twice a year.

Mr Biddiss said when Noye was released from prison in 2019: "It turned out that Danielle's mum was not far wrong when she said if my daughter gets involved, she's going to have her life ruined. That's what's happened. She's still in witness protection."

Asked if Danielle would be living in fear for the rest of her life, he said: "Yes. Whether it's real I don't know.

"But Kenneth Noye is a man who has got his tentacles everywhere. She was very brave in what she did."

Vicious

Mr Biddiss later expressed his disapproval of how Noye was depicted by Jack Lowden in 2023 BBC drama The Gold, about the £26million Brink's-Mat bullion heist he was part of in 1983.

Mr Biddiss said of the drama: "What is being portrayed in this programme is that he's some latter-day Robin Hood – a jolly fellow. He's a vicious individual."

The detective's son Rob said: "Dad was very proud to do the job he did and he was very big on representing victims and ensuring that bad people were kept off the streets.

"He felt dramatisations like The Gold really glamorised the criminal world and that used to really frustrate him. Dad always said he'd like people to remember the names of victims rather than the people who had killed them."

Noye stabbed Stephen in the heart after cutting in front of his van on a roundabout near Swanley, Kent, on May 19, 1996, as Danielle drove.

He fled the UK but was extradited two years later after a tip-off that he was living in an isolated farmhouse in southern Spain.

Noye was convicted in 2000 and sentenced to a minimum of 16 years in prison. He was freed in 2019.

Mr Biddiss was diagnosed with bowel cancer 18 months ago and died just two months after his wife of 56 years, Brenda.

The keen golfer and Kent cricket and Fulham FC fan leaves sons Rob and Stephen, daughter Nicole and five grandchildren. More than 270 mourners attended his funeral at Herne Bay Crematorium in Kent on December 30.

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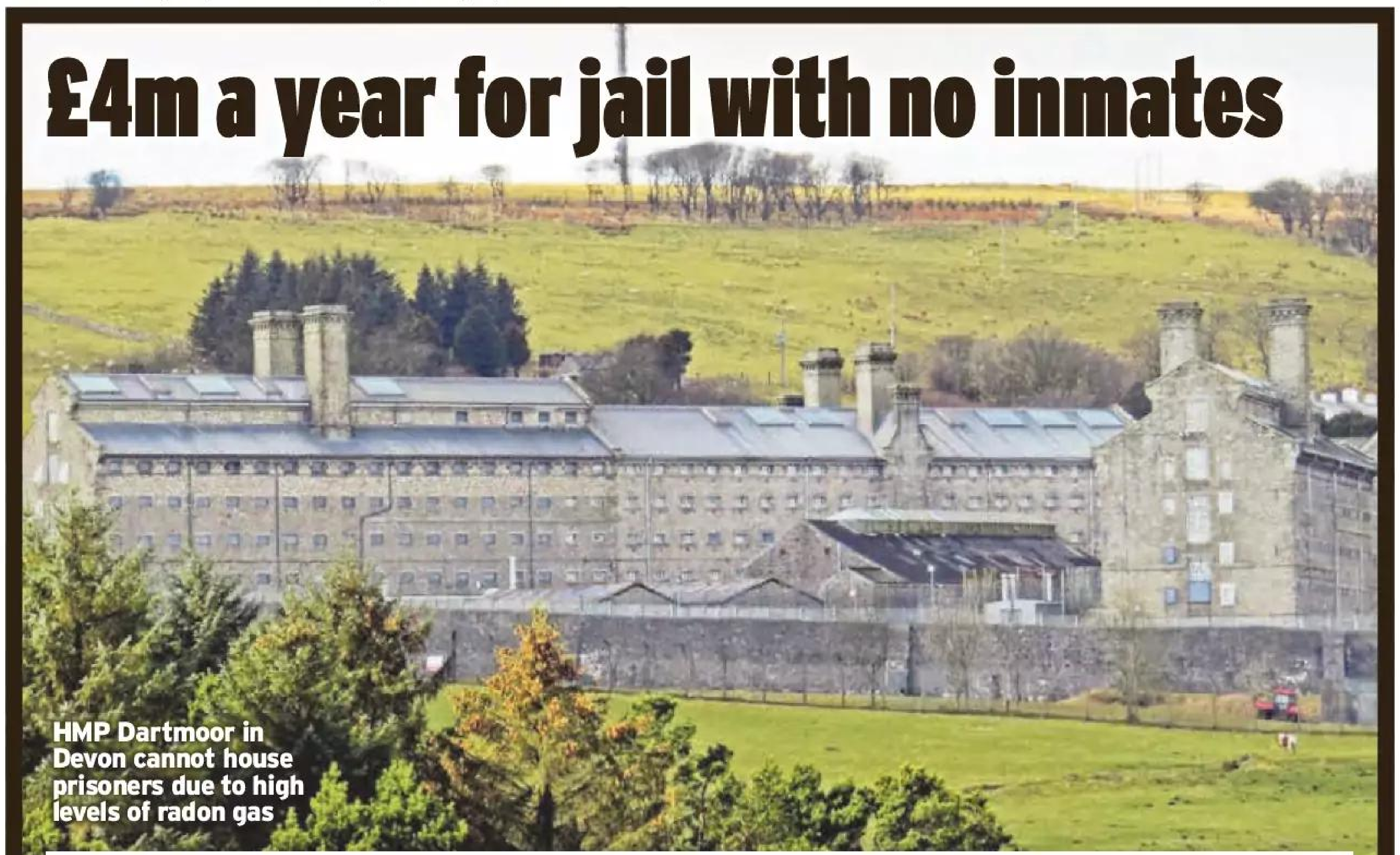
£4m a year for jail with no inmates


HMP Dartmoor in Devon cannot house prisoners due to high levels of radon gas

BY **DAVID WILLIAMSON**

A PRISON that cannot hold inmates because it contains "radioactive gas" is costing taxpayers around £4million a year.

The Prison Service knew about radon levels at HMP Dartmoor in 2020, according to the Commons Public Accounts Committee.

That year the prison's kitchen had a radon reading "nearly 10 times the acceptable limit".

Yet the Prison Service signed a lease for it two years later which cannot be terminated before December 2033, the report said.

Radon "produces tiny radioactive particles in the air we breathe" and "can cause lung cancer, particularly for smokers and ex-smokers", according to the UK Health Security Agency.

The jail in Devon had previously held over 600 prisoners but has been empty since 2024 after high levels of the gas were found. The Prison Service did not negotiate a cut to the annual rent of £1.5m. Business rates and security costs push annual expenditure up to around £4m.

The government must also pay additional costs of around £68m on improvements to the site over the period of the lease.

Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown, *inset*, who chairs the committee, said: "We heard claims that the leasing of this unusable building, known for years by HMPPS to be choked with radon gas, was sensible, driven by the need for prison places. Our committee rejects this excuse outright."

Anne Strickland, of the TaxPayers' Alliance, said the Ministry of Justice "is failing both taxpayers and the justice system".

Arena families: MI5 failed our loved ones

'Law must force spies to tell truth'

BY **MICHAEL KNOWLES**
Home Affairs Editor

THE families of those killed in the Manchester Arena bombing said "MI5 failed our loved ones" as they demanded spies are covered by the Hillsborough Law which forces transparency.

In a letter to Sir Keir Starmer, they said the intelligence agency "hurt us further through its lack of candour".

Spies failed to act on clues that could have stopped Salman Abedi killing 22 people, Sir John Saunders concluded after chairing a three-year public inquiry.

The intelligence could have led to investigators following Abedi to his Nissan Micra where he stored explosives.

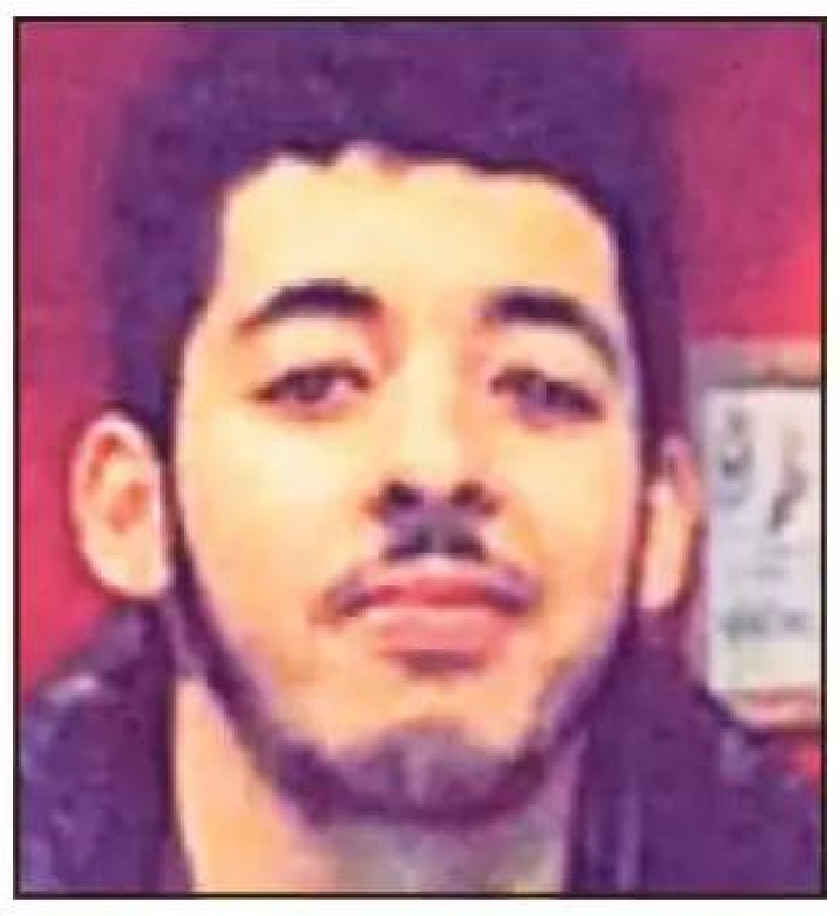
Islamist terrorist Abedi, who had links to ISIS and Al-Qaeda, might also have been stopped at Manchester airport as he returned from Libya four days before the 2017 attack.

The exact nature of the intelligence was withheld from the public report due to national security concerns.

But Sir John said MI5 did not present an "accurate picture" of what it knew. The families are now urging the PM to include the security services in the Hillsborough Law.

It was fought for by the families whose loved ones were among the 97 who died in the stadium disaster of 1989. The legislation, formally called the Public Office (Accountability) Bill, will be scrutinised by MPs next week. The Manchester Arena bereaved wrote: "MI5 failed our loved ones and failed us. It did so by failing to prevent the arena bombing. But it then failed and hurt us further through its lack of candour after the attack. During the Manchester Arena inquiry, MI5 lied about the key intelligence it held about the suicide bomber before the attack. Despite MI5 lying to a public inquiry no one has been held to account. How many times must MI5 show that it cannot be trusted before something is done?

"We are calling on you to keep your promise and ensure that MI5, MI6 and GCHQ are held to the same standards as everyone else."


Bomber Abedi was on radar

Barrister Pete Weatherby KC, who heads the Hillsborough Law Now campaign, said people understand some information is on a need to know basis. But he added: "Whether the evidence is given in open or it's given in closed hearings, it must be the truth. MI5 shouldn't be given a free hand to run a false narrative."

More than 1,000 people were also injured in the arena blast as an Ariana Grande concert ended.

Breeding ends for penguins in basement

BY **STEPH SPYRO**
Environment Editor

A gentoo penguin in the London Aquarium's windowless basement enclosure

AN aquarium has halted the breeding of captive gentoo penguins in its basement after talks with animal rights campaigners.

London Aquarium's decision comes amid a high-profile crusade to get the 15 birds moved from the underground enclosure which has no fresh air or daylight.

In a statement following two-day negotiations with concerned groups, the aquarium said: "Given the complexity of the issue, further work is now needed to consider possible next steps.

"While this is under way, breeding will remain paused, and the ongoing care of the 15 penguins, including two who are geriatric, will remain the priority of the teams looking after them on a day-to-day basis."

Sanctuary

It added: "The discussion was open, constructive and rightly challenging at times."

The aquarium said meaningful progress was made with Freedom for Animals, the Born Free Foundation and People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals in identifying areas for action as well as further consideration.

It said this ranged from improvements to the penguin habitat at the aquarium to the possibility of rehoming them.

Dr Carys Bennett, senior corporate projects manager at PETA, confirmed: "There will be a suspension in any attempts to breed the gentoo penguins while all future, long-term options are fully explored, including lifetime care in a sanctuary." Will Travers, executive president of Born Free, said: "Based on two days of intensive and respectful discussions, a series of actions have been agreed focusing on the short and long-term welfare of the penguins.

"Measures to improve aspects of the physical, atmospheric, nutritional, and behavioural welfare of the animals, based on studies of gentoo penguins in the wild, will now be implemented."

The Express led the crusade for the animals to be moved, alongside Born Free and Freedom for Animals. We were previously threatened with legal action for calling the penguins "captive".

A high-profile campaign, backed by Chris Packham, Feargal Sharkey and more than 75 MPs also led to support from more than 45,000 members of the public. The aquarium said further talks would be held soon.

Laura Walton, co-director of Freedom For Animals, said: "While we agreed that full release into the wild was, regrettably, not a viable option, concerted efforts will be ongoing to see whether the establishment of a penguin sanctuary for these and other suitable birds could offer lifetime care in a more suitable and naturalistic environment."

The Sea Life London Aquarium said: "Since the arrival of the colony in 2024, the team have been working hard to ensure the conditions are perfect for the penguins to breed."

● Sign the petition to free the penguins at shorturl.at/uJURA.

Wing transplant saves butterfly

BY **MICHAEL LEE SIMPSON**

AN injured butterfly was given a second chance to fly after rescuers performed a wing transplant.

The monarch – already an endangered species – was taken to Sweetbriar Nature Center in Long Island, New York, with its wing bent and torn.

Janine Bendicksen, its wildlife rehabilitation chief, transplanted a donor wing from a dead butterfly using tweezers, cement and cornflour.

Remarkably, the patient flew immediately after surgery and was released the next day.

Janine, 63, said she had been waiting for the right candidate to perform her first transplant – a butterfly free from deformities caused by disease which had not lost its entire wing.

She said of the injured monarch, *pictured*: "I put her in the refrigerator. It's kind of a little anaesthesia, being that she's an insect. For 10 minutes, it slowed down her movement so we could do the procedure." The operation took just five minutes and then: "The butterfly literally took off right in the room we were in and flew at the window, I had to grab it."

Janine continued: "A lot of people think, why just do it on one butterfly? It's only going to live for a week or two weeks. But monarch butterflies – this particular generation – are the ones that fly all the way down to Mexico. So they can live for five months, seven months."

The World Wildlife Organisation says monarchs have the most highly evolved migration pattern of any butterfly or moth. It blames climate change, habitat destruction, insecticides and herbicides for the species loss.

Janine said they have one advantage on their 2,200-mile flight: "They are poisonous, birds don't eat them. So it had a good chance. And we just watched it go. It's this little miracle."

Winter.
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- Flowering period: February - April
- Position: Full sun / part sun / part shade
- Height / Spread in maturity: 30cm/30cm
- Temperatures: Hardy down to -10°C
- Good for: Borders, pots, containers, pollinators, low-maintenance gardens, ground cover, cuttings, front of beds, baskets

For many gardens, the gap between winter and spring feels long, and Polyanthus Showstopper Fire Dragon helps bridge it. Fiery red flowers with golden yellow centres rise above tidy evergreen rosettes, bringing early colour to borders and pots. This hardy primula prefers partial sun and moist, well-drained soil. Plant in autumn or early spring for best results. Regular deadheading encourages extended flowering. Supplied as one plant in a 1L pot, it suits both novice and experienced UK gardeners.

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Glider pilot hero of Arnhem dies at 103

Farewell to last aviator from doomed 'Bridge Too Far' air assault

BY **GILES SHELDRICK**
Chief Reporter

PETER Colthup, the last surviving glider pilot to serve at the Battle of Arnhem, has died at 103.

The hero aviator took part in the ill-fated airborne assault code-named Operation Market Garden in September 1944 to capture key bridges in the Netherlands and create a quick route to Germany.

During the battle some 35,000 Allies valiantly fought the Germans for nine days but were defeated and suffered heavy losses.

It resulted in the award of five Victoria Crosses, four of them posthumous, and is immortalised in the 1977 film A Bridge Too Far directed by Richard Attenborough.

The film depicts the doomed mission in which the Allies failed to secure a key bridge over the Rhine at Arnhem and has an all-star cast.

Ramon de Heer, who runs a group dedicated to the memory of those who fought during the Battle of Arnhem, said: "After days of fighting Peter was one of the lucky ones who returned over the river.

"He will be missed. May he rest in peace." Peter enlisted in 1939 aged 17 and served with the Essex Regiment before signing up for the Glider Pilot Regiment.

It stealthily landed troops and supplies in northern France and the Netherlands.

Peter saw action in North Africa and the invasion of Sicily.

Recounting his decision to volunteer for the regiment he said he "didn't much fancy marching" so learned to fly instead.

He said: "War is just hell – that's life in battle, you don't have time to feel emotions.

Medals

"You're in your glider seeing other aircraft being shot down but you can do nothing about it – that's what is so ghastly about war."

During the Battle of Arnhem Peter from Whitstable, Kent, shot dead a young German soldier who burst into a building he was hiding in after landing.

He said: "I looked into his eyes as he died – it was just horrible. I can still see his face. In other times we

Winter. Reader Offer in partnership with Yimbly.com

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- ✓ Plant type: Perennial
- ✓ Flowering period: June - Septemer
- ✓ Position: Full sun
- ✓ Height / Spread in maturity: 250cm/200cm
- ✓ Temperatures: Hardy down to -20°C
- ✓ Good for: Trellis, pergolas, containers, cutting, pollinators, wildlife, low-maintenance gardens

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Peter Colthup has an airfield named after him, getting medal from the Dutch, right, 100th birthday card from King, far right, and in his Second World War days, left

would have had a drink together but you were living in that minute and trying to stay alive.

"I now think, how the hell can we keep on having wars when things like that happen?"

Peter was made an Honorary Life Member of the Arnhem 1944 Fellowship. An airfield in Wolfheze, near Arnhem and where a monument stands to honour glider pilots, is named after him.

After the war Peter settled for a while in New York and became a successful entrepreneur and restaurateur, establishing Cafe Europa, whose regular clients included Jackie Kennedy Onassis, Broadway actors, and UN diplomats. He then moved back to England, had a 100th birthday card from the King and was given the Dutch Liberation Medal and Market Garden Medal from a Netherlands official in 2022.

Scene from movie epic A Bridge Too Far

Each May British veterans lead the Dutch Liberation Day parade through Wageningen, where the German surrender of its remaining troops in Holland was signed.

Dick Goodwin, vice president of the Taxi Charity for Military Veterans, said: "The Dutch have never forgotten the part the British played in securing freedom.

"Returning veterans are treated like royalty, and rightly so.

"Peter was a remarkable veteran and a true gentleman. I was delighted to attend his 100th birthday celebration in 2022. He was eloquent, well spoken, wonderfully chatty and always smiling.

"Although Peter had been bedridden for many years, he remained very much part of our Taxi Charity family. He will be greatly missed."

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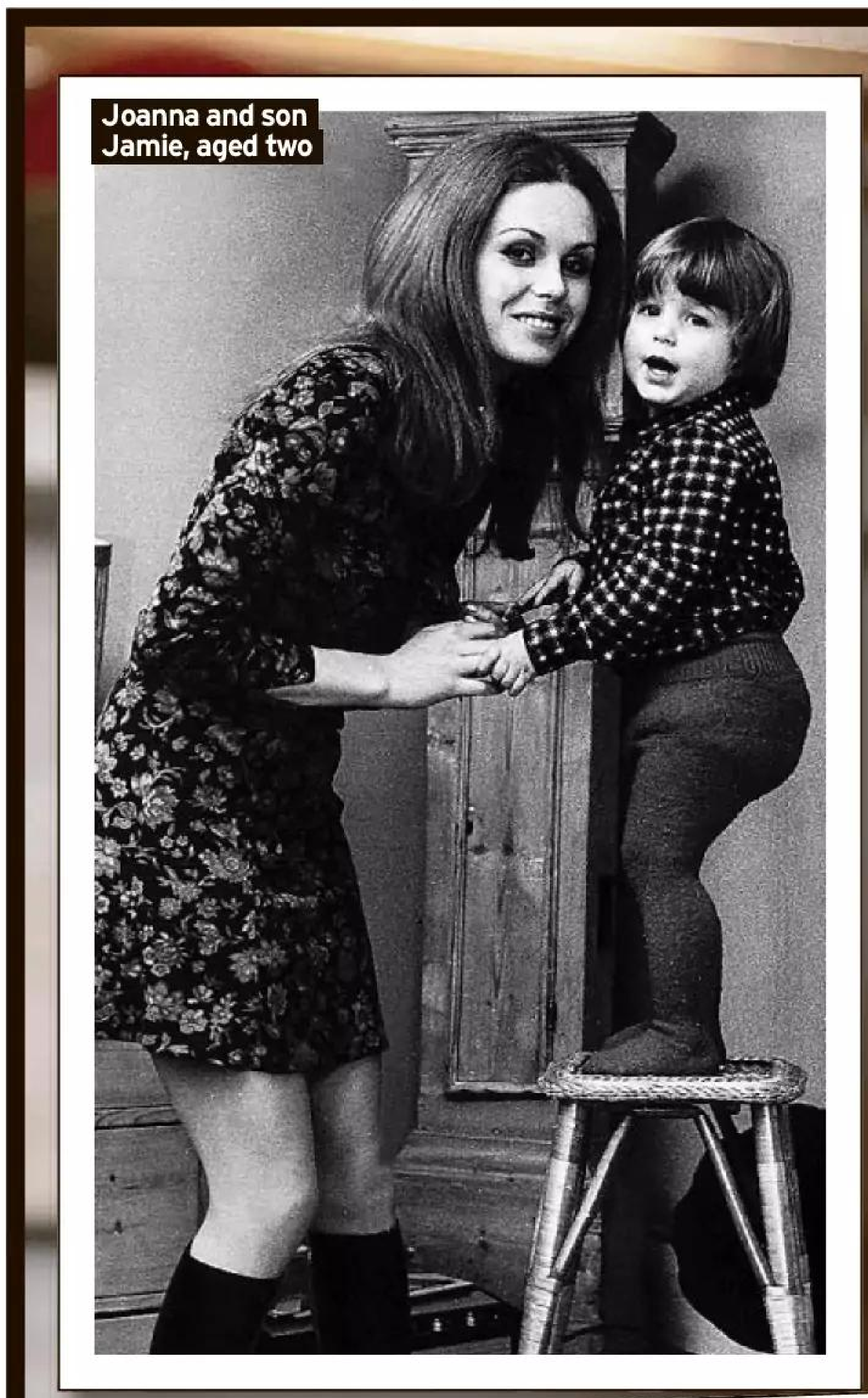
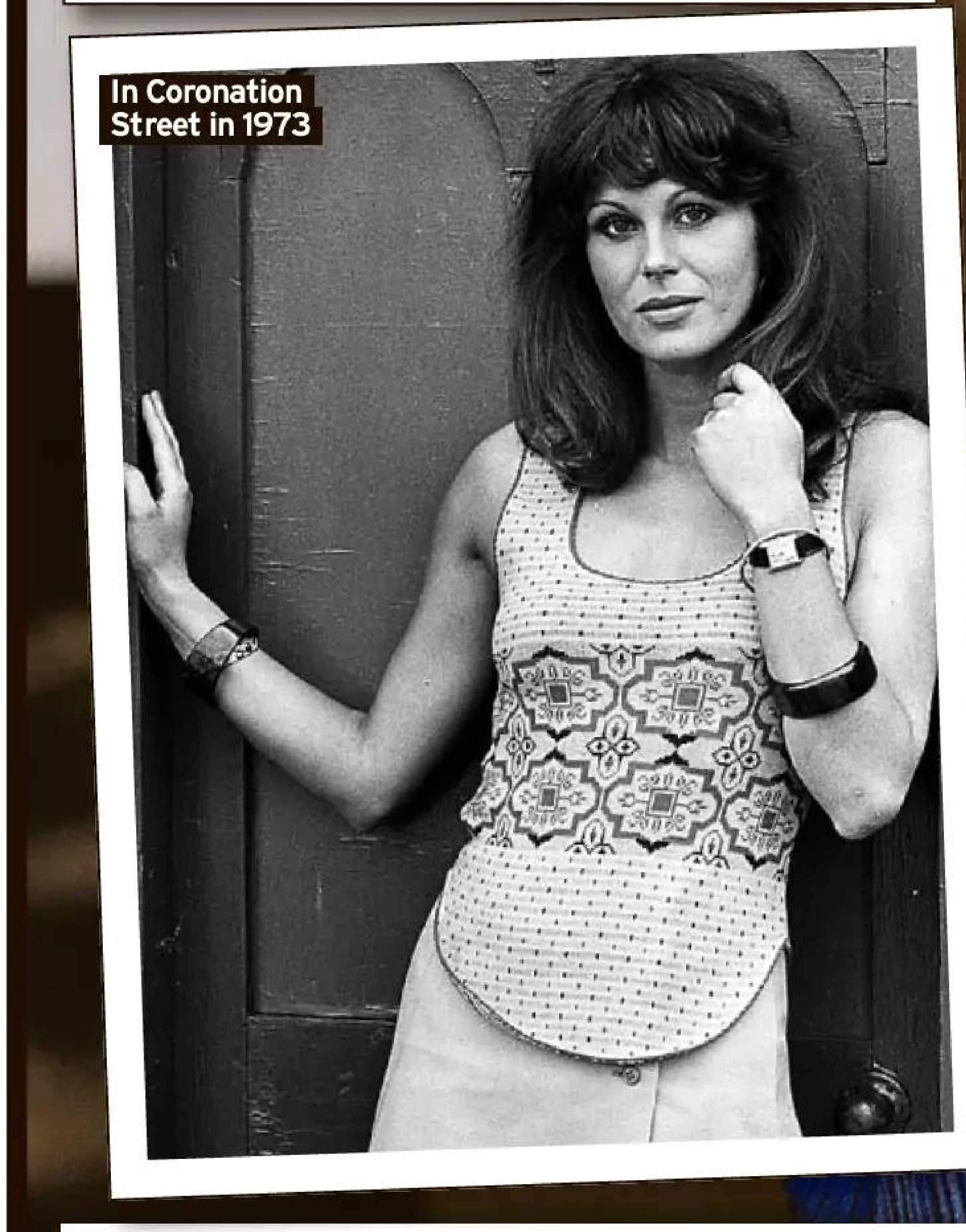


Joanna and son Jamie, aged two

Filming for Comic Relief's Red Nose Day in 2021



In Coronation Street in 1973

By Ross Kaniuk

KNOWN for her cheerful outlook and love of life, everything Dame Joanna Lumley has ever touched seems to have turned to gold. But her serene exterior hides a dark time in her life when she sank into the depths of despair for six months, began hallucinating and dreaded even going out.

A breakdown derailed her successful early career and only her trust in the kindness of people put it back on track.

Now the beloved actor and author has revealed for the first time how she spiralled downhill after a mercenary producer made her get back on stage in a play a day after secret surgery.

Joanna, 79, has gained iconic status thanks to an illustrious career, including as Purdey in The New Avengers, Elaine Perkins in Coronation Street, and, more recently, Felicity in Amandaland and Grandmama in the US series Wednesday.

But perhaps her most famous role is as the hard-drinking, heavy-smoking, wild-living Patsy Stone in the hit BBC comedy Absolutely Fabulous, for which she won two BAFTAs.

She has also fronted successful travel shows, written best-selling books, campaigned for animal rights, and become the face of the Gurkha Justice Campaign, which won improved rights for Gurkha veterans of the British Army.

Joanna was first recognised as a model in the swinging 60s before she moved into acting. While modelling, aged just 21, she had her only child Jamie, whom she raised as a single mum after splitting from his father, photographer Michael Claydon.

She had two lines as a Bond girl in 1969's On Her Majesty's Secret Service before being cast as a main star in actor-manager Brian Rix's production of the farce Don't Just Lie There, Say Something at the West End's Garrick Theatre. Joanna loved the role but a sudden health crisis plunged her into the dark period where her life unravelled to the point where her future career may never have happened. She says of the production: "It was very funny and it was terrific. It was lovely, I was sharing a dressing room, which I adore because you chitter chatter before. It was an extremely funny little part I had with Alfred Marks.

"I got ill during it – I had to have an ovarian operation, which meant they had to open you up. In those days they were slashers, they liked to get across you from hip bone to hip bone. Brian Rix came to me the day after. And he said: 'Can you go back, somebody's given their ticket back because they said they wanted to see you, and I don't like that because we're losing money?'

"He'd stopped my money because he said: 'We have to pay an understudy to come on so you can't have money'. I was on £40 a week so it wasn't very much anyway.

"My son, my little baby boy, who was only two years old at the time, the au pair girl jumped ship.

"One of my cousins, who was my age, was dying. Everything suddenly spiralled up and I was made to go back on stage long before I could hardly stand. And I began to hallucinate. I could see in the (theatre) boxes, I

Hugging Rod Stewart in Kensington, 1974

I had a very dark 6 months in my 20s but a voice always said, 'Kind people will help you'. And they have, always

As Purdey in the New Avengers. Below with co-stars Patrick MacNee and Gareth Hunt

As Patsy with Jennifer Saunders in Absolutely Fabulous

With Lucy Punch in Amandaland

could see a man every night levelling up a machine gun and just taking aim and I remember thinking 'If I stand here I could just stop Debbie [her role] being hit there, but then he might move the gun round.

"So this is not good in a comedy, this is not right at all'.

ONE Saturday we had two shows that day. I can remember living in my rented flat, I'd sent Jamie to stay with my parents as the au pair had jumped ship. I sat in the corner of the room and I said: 'I will never go back'.

"I went to Charing Cross and I bought a ticket and I went down to Staplehurst. From Staplehurst station I rang my father and said: 'Can you come and collect me'. They went: 'Darling, you've got two shows today'. I said 'No I haven't, I'm never going back'. It was like Stephen Fry (who fled to Europe during a run of the play Cell Mates in 1995 after a breakdown).

"It was like people under pressure in the war… suddenly something in you goes 'you can't do any more'. I didn't let the people down, my fellow actors – something stopped.

"I then went into a really deep, deep, deep.... For about six months I couldn't walk, I couldn't cross the road, I didn't dare go into shops. It was a pretty slim bad time."

But, with no outside help, Joanna's own strength and positivity eventually pulled her out of her despair. She says: "This is where the good thing is. I thought how I would get out of this on my own. This is before you ever went to psychiatrists.

"I said you're going to the supermarket, you walk through the door and you bump into a pile of bottles, they all smash, you trip and fall, you cut yourself, so now you're bleeding and all the bottles are on the floor. What happens Jo? The other side of my head said kind people will help you. I pushed it further and I said you've got no money and you're bleeding and your skirt has fallen off and you've got no pants on, now what?

THE same Jo from the other side of my head said kind people will help you. I've known this all my life, and they have, always. And we're all kind people and we all help people who in varying degrees come to us and say: 'Can you help?'

"It might be just taking a lid off a jar, but it might be more than that. So always help when you can."

Joanna holds no grudge against Rix, who died in 2016. She says: "There isn't room for any resentment. You mustn't have that, it only eats you up.

"I knew there's no reason to have horribleness in you, it only makes you ill."

Joanna, who dated singer Rod Stewart in 1974, feels that since her dark time life has dealt her a good hand.

"Acting is not working, it's something you adore doing. Doing stuff like that, you can work 25 hours of the day, it's a pleasure and a joy, and not be paid for it."

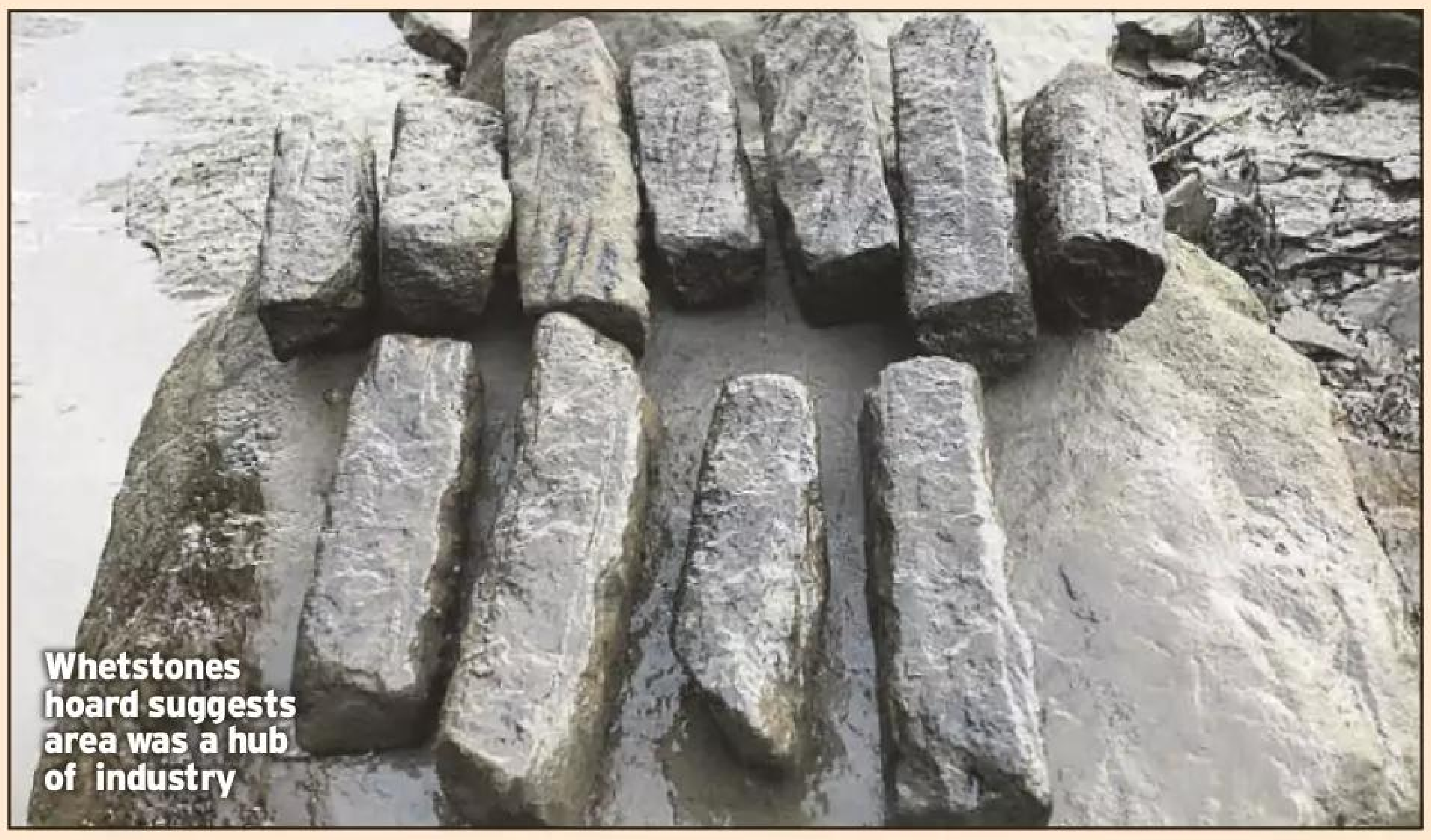
Asked on a Rosebud podcast chat what brings her joy, she says: "Look to this day. Yesterday's gone, tomorrow hasn't come."

"Live this day. This has been the hardest lesson in my buzzy, buzzy life – is to live now, to live this moment."

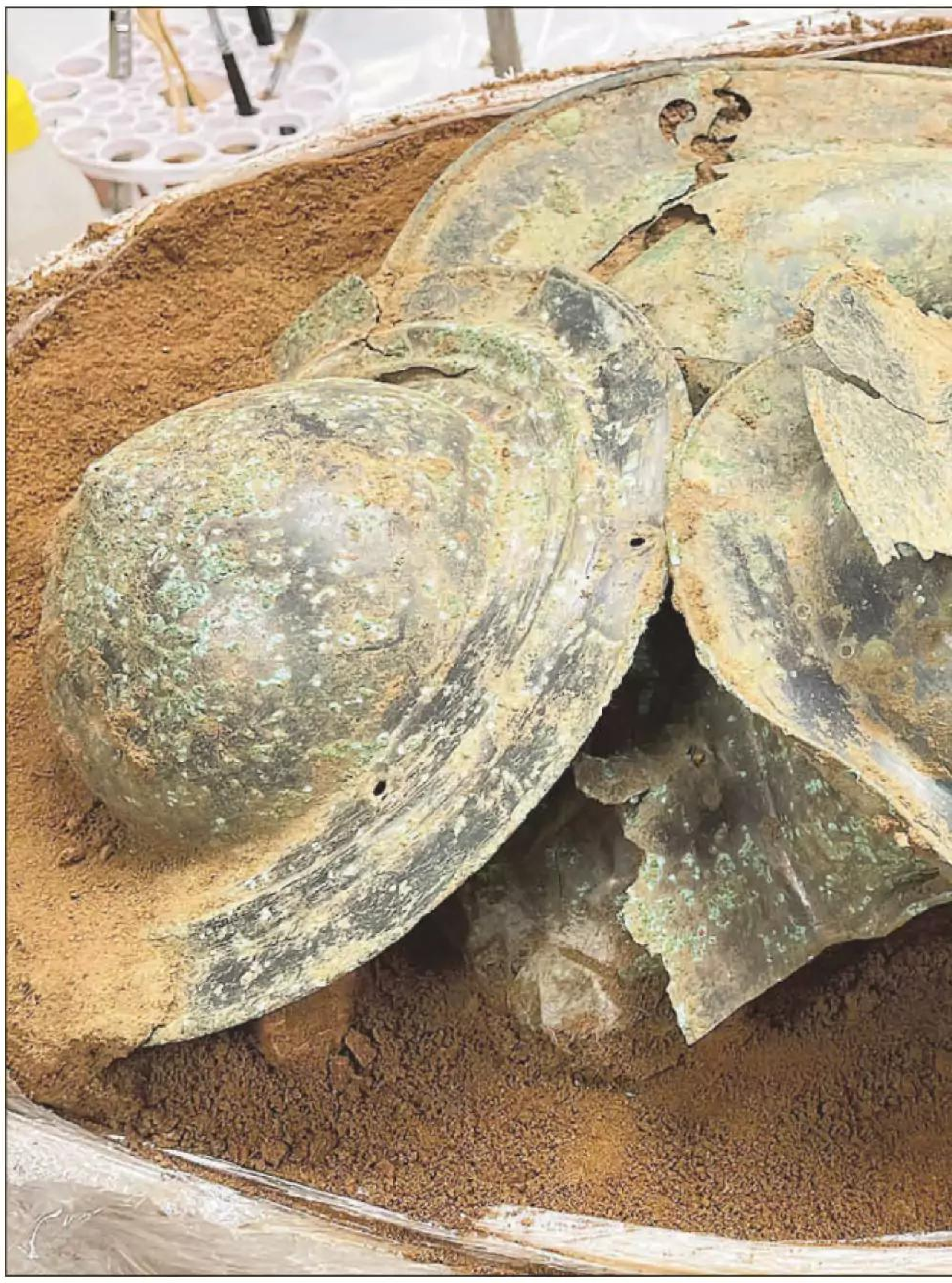
Joanna has collected others' words of wisdom since she was 12. She has compiled her favourites for her most recent book, My Book of Treasures: A Collection of Favourite Writings. She says: "I didn't want anything to be too solemn. As you get older you do think about life skidding away from you.

"And as I can hear in the distant hills the taxi beginning to draw up possibly with the blanket in the back seat, you think: 'I just want to have had a good think about things before the time comes to leave this world'."

Volunteers dig at the Roman site near Sunderland



Whetstones hoard suggests area was a hub of industry



Iron Age find worth being

BY **SAM RUSSELL**

A BATTLE trumpet is among a hoard of Iron Age objects discovered on a routine archeological dig.

The animal-headed bronze instrument, called a carnyx, was used by Celtic tribes across Europe to inspire their warriors and fascinated the Romans who frequently took them as war trophies.

This example is one of only three known from Britain and is one of the most complete found in Europe, Historic England said. The routine excavation was on private land in west Norfolk last summer, with the precise location not disclosed.

The hoard also includes a sheet-bronze boar's head, originally from a military standard, and five shield emblems.

Mark Hinman, of Pre-Construct Archaeology, said: "Before this dig

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I came, I saw, why aye conquered ...Roman industry in North East

BY **STEPHEN BEECH**

EVIDENCE of a Roman industrial hub dating back more than 1,900 years has been unearthed in North East England.

More than 800 whetstones and 11 stone anchors have been unearthed at the Offerton site on the banks of the River Wear near Sunderland.

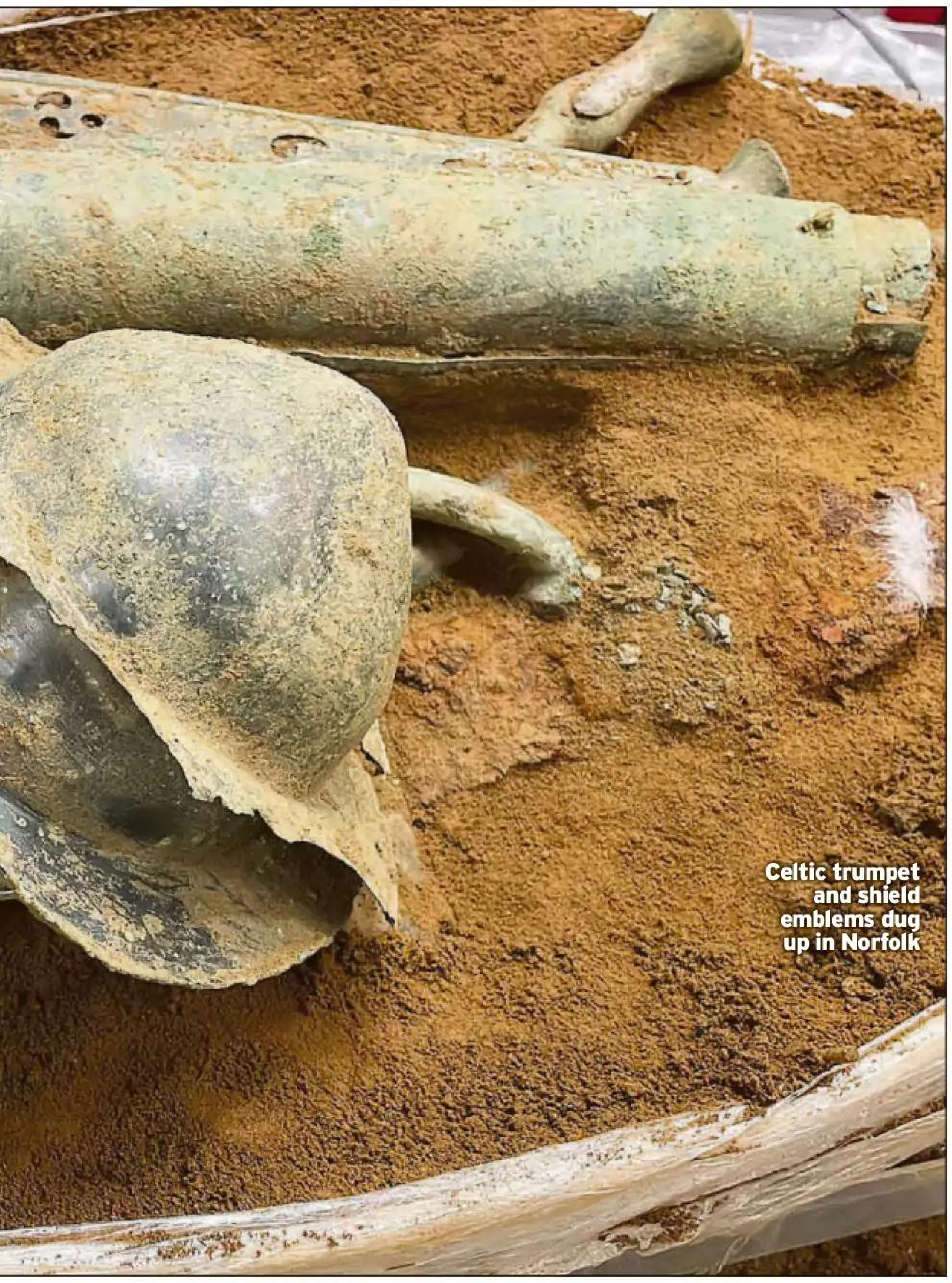
Analysis of the sediment layer containing the whetstones - stone bars used to sharpen tools and weapons - has confirmed the site dates to the time of the Roman occupation of Britain.

The site was discovered and excavated by volunteers from the Vedra Hylton Community Association and supported by Durham University's Department of Archaeology. The find represents the largest known whetstone discovery of the period in north-western Europe.

This suggests Offerton was likely a major production hub in Roman Britain. Project leader Gary Bankhead said: "This isn't just a Roman site - it's Sunderland's story."

The excavations will be featured in a new series of Digging for Britain on BBC Two and available on iPlayer from today.

One of the bar-shaped whetstones found at site



Celtic trumpet and shield emblems dug up in Norfolk

is definitely trumpeted

our project manager had a feeling this site would be special.

"We are so impressed with the team responsible for this find.

"They discovered something completely unexpected, paused for breath, then followed best excavation practice to recover these rare and fragile objects."

Following their discovery, the objects were carefully lifted within a block of soil from the site. Experts at Norfolk Museums Service then carefully removed each object.

Dr Tim Pestell, of Norfolk Museums Service, said: "This find is a powerful reminder of Norfolk's Iron Age past which, through the story of Boudica and the Iceni people, still fascinates the public."

The initial discovery will be featured in the new series of Digging For Britain on BBC Two, broadcast at 9pm next Wednesday.

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JUST follow the instructions from left to right, starting with the number given to reach an answer at the end of the row. Set your own 30-second challenge. For the very young or arithmetically rusty, you have 30 seconds for the BEGINNER task.

For a greater challenge, try BEGINNER and INTERMEDIATE in 30 seconds. True mental gymnasts should try INTERMEDIATE and ADVANCED in 30 seconds together.

Today's answers can be found in the puzzles pullout

										YOUR ANSWERS
Beginner	45	4/9 OF THIS	+56	÷4	+65	75% OF THIS	-27	TAKE THE SQUARE ROOT	+55	
Intermediate	85	3/5 OF THIS	+143	INCREASE BY 50%	÷3	-38	x5	+15	9/10 OF THIS	
Advanced	59	+97	5/13 OF THIS	+75	INCREASE BY 60%	+376	5/16 OF THIS	-14	÷3	

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EUROMILLIONS
5 14 17 18 31 10 12
THUNDERBALL
1 2 16 22 30 4

MONDAY, JANUARY 5
SET FOR LIFE 4 22 32 33 36 7

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3
LOTTERY 6 20 34 38 47 48 4
THUNDERBALL 2 3 9 13 38 9

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MONDAY, JANUARY 5
4 13 27 32 45 42

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PHONE POLL RESULTS

We asked in our poll on Monday:
Is Keir Starmer betraying Brexit vote by moving closer to EU?

YES: 98%

NO: 2%

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	3	4		2	6		8	9
		2					4	1
9			2			4		3
	6			1	7		9	
4					3			8
8	4							6
1	5		9		8	3		
	9	6	3			8	5	

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8	9	5	3	1	2	7	6	4
1	7	6	9	8	4	2	5	3
4	2	3	6	7	5	8	9	1
7	4	1	2	3	9	6	8	5
2	5	8	1	6	7	4	3	9
6	3	9	4	5	8	1	7	2
5	8	4	7	9	1	3	2	6
3	1	7	5	2	6	9	4	8
9	6	2	8	4	3	5	1	7

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Ride pair Phill and Jamie with dad's original Mercian bike

The cycle of life for dad and son

BY **CHARLIE FENTON**

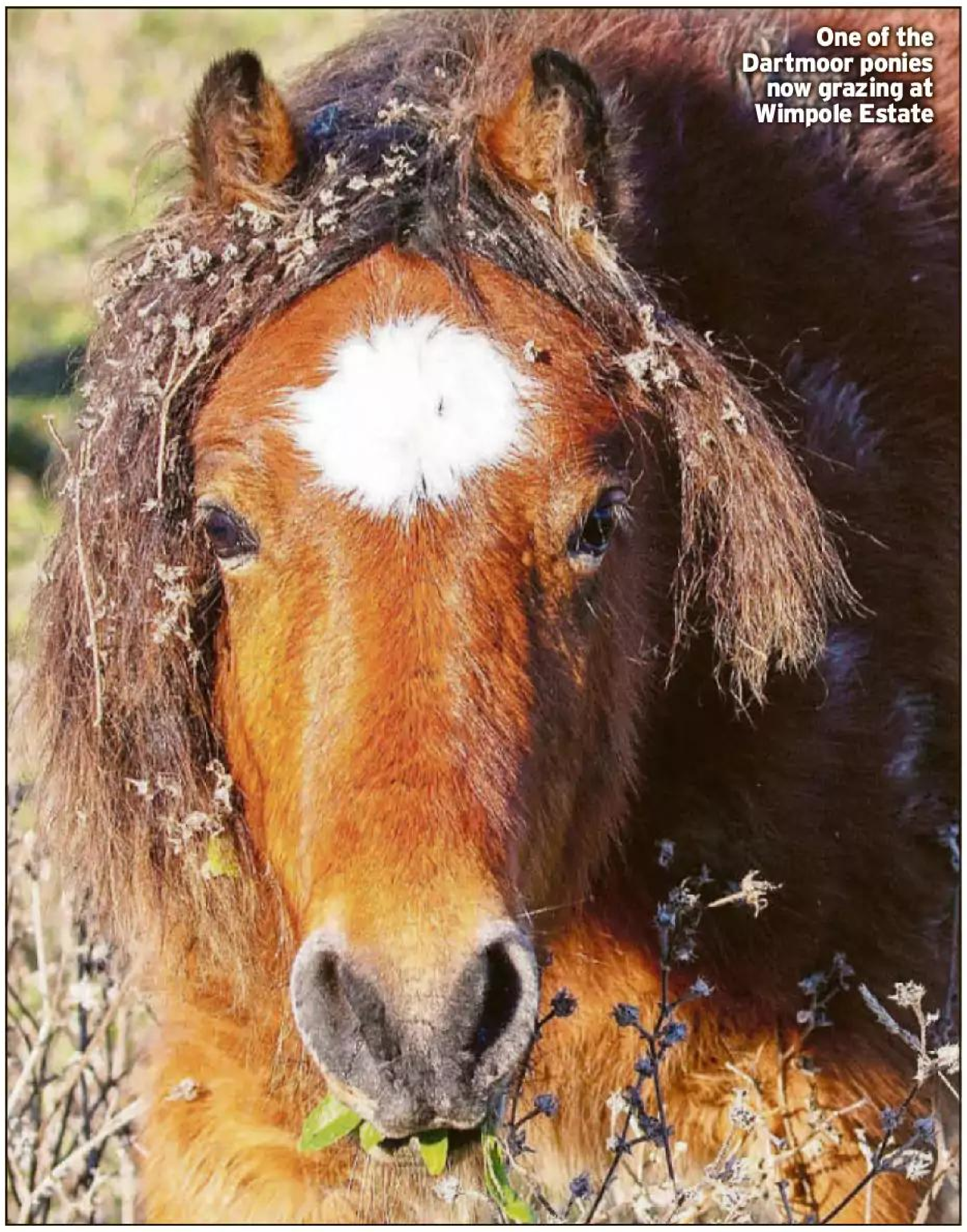
JAMIE Hargreaves has cycled 15,500 miles from Derby to Australia – just like his dad Phill 40 years ago.

The 23-year-old was in the saddle of a Mercian, the same as Phill, for 19 months... except when he came a cropper.

Jamie's worst moment was as he carried his bike to Everest base camp and a donkey nudged him off a cliff. He said: "I managed to catch a tree branch to stop myself falling 20 metres."

He recreated Phill's photos as he cycled through 30 countries, broadly following his dad's 1984 route. Jamie, who hauled a 12st load, including a ukulele, had just 10 punctures. He said: "I have four lifetimes of memories." Phill, 63, said: "I'm proud."

Jamie recreates his dad's snap in Germany, top, and Phill, centre, on 1984 ride



One of the Dartmoor ponies now grazing at Wimpole Estate

Ponies keep stately home grounds tidy

New grazers munch thistles

BY **SAM RUSSELL**

FIVE Dartmoor ponies have arrived at a National Trust estate, where they will help restore the landscape by grazing on thistles and other weeds.

The conservation charity hopes that the three mares and two geldings will help create the right conditions for wildflowers and grasses to thrive beneath scattered trees at the Wimpole Estate in Cambridgeshire.

Workers have planted thousands of trees across areas of former non-productive arable land to re-establish traditional parkland habitats.

Richer

The native rare breed ponies will graze across four interlinked fields of newly created wood pasture.

Dave Hassall, farm and countryside manager at Wimpole Estate, said: "The Dartmoors are here as part of our conservation grazing programme.

"They're hardy, gentle grazers, ideal for this kind of habitat work.

"We've already seen how their grazing helps reduce weeds and encourages a richer mix of grasses and wildflowers. Within minutes of arriving, one of them was happily munching on a thistle, which is exactly what we were hoping for!"

National Trust's Wimpole Estate, Cambs

The National Trust said Dartmoor ponies are well suited to the demands of conservation grazing.

Cattle can damage young tree guards and sheep tend to graze too selectively, but ponies can help maintain a balanced vegetation structure.

Once the ponies' weed-eating has prepared the ground and they have moved on to another part of the estate, they will be followed by grazing cattle, which will continue to support wildlife while also contributing to food production.

Shiny spider's one to watch

BY **EMILY BEAMENT**

THIS striking spider is one of the top natural wonders a conservation charity wants to highlight in 2026.

Fauna & Flora has published a list of 10 species it wants to focus on this year, including the Indian rainbow tarantula, also known as the psychedelic earth tiger.

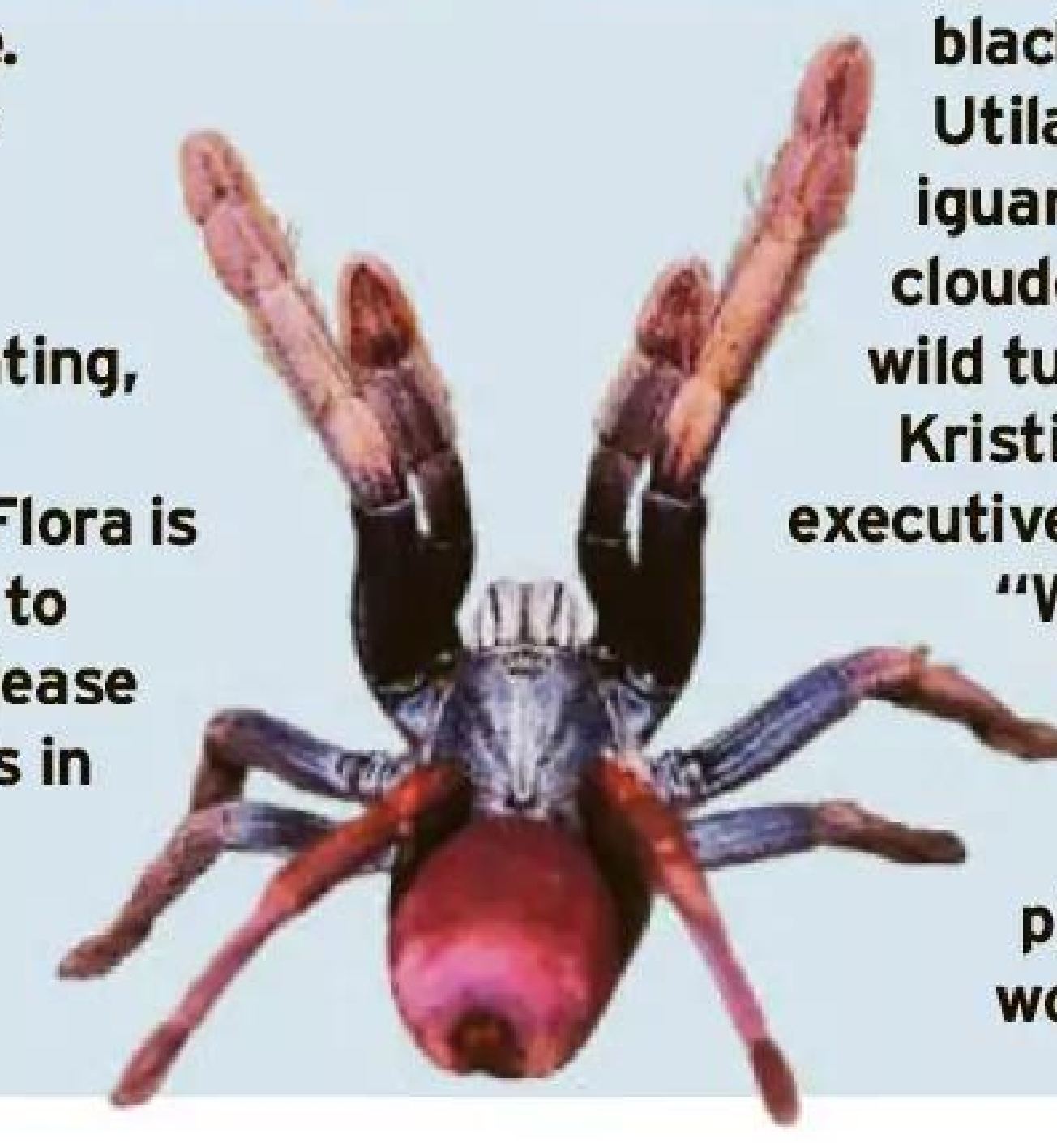
Found only in the tropical forests of Kerala, India, it faces threats from habitat loss and the illegal pet trade. Conservationists aim to secure its future.

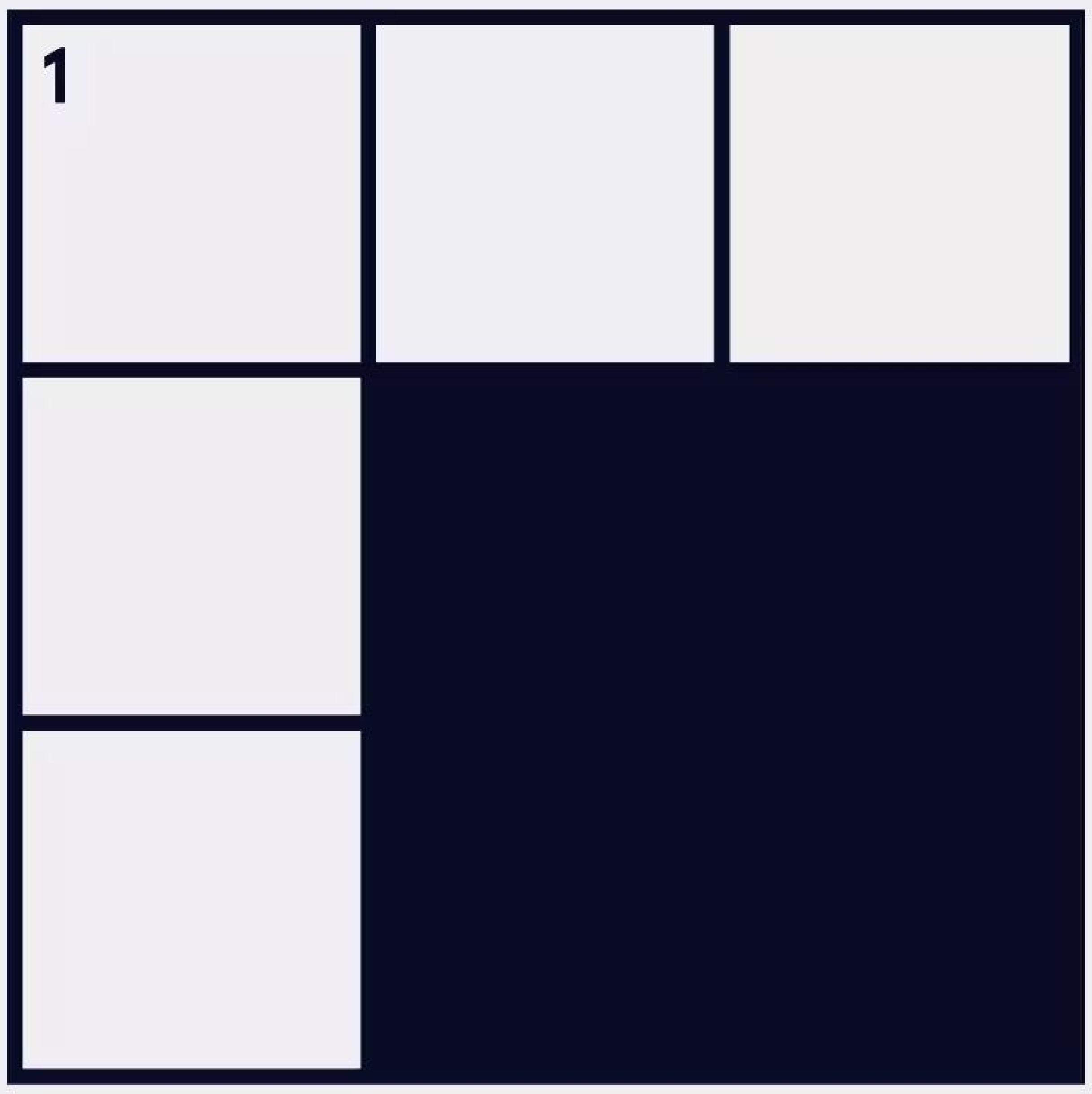
Also on the list is the Saint Lucia fer-de-lance, a viper feared for its venom. Flora & Fauna hopes to change local understanding as it is not aggressive.

There is also the once-common European eel, endangered by hunting, and Temminck's pangolin. Fauna & Flora is supporting a clinic to rehabilitate and release the scaly mammals in Mozambique.

The Cao vit gibbon also features, a primate so rare it was thought extinct until being rediscovered in 2002, as does the blackchin guitarfish, Utila spiny-tailed iguana, Saker falcon, clouded leopard and wild tulips.

Kristian Teleki, chief executive of F&F, said: "We can no longer delay action to protect and restore our planet's natural wonders."





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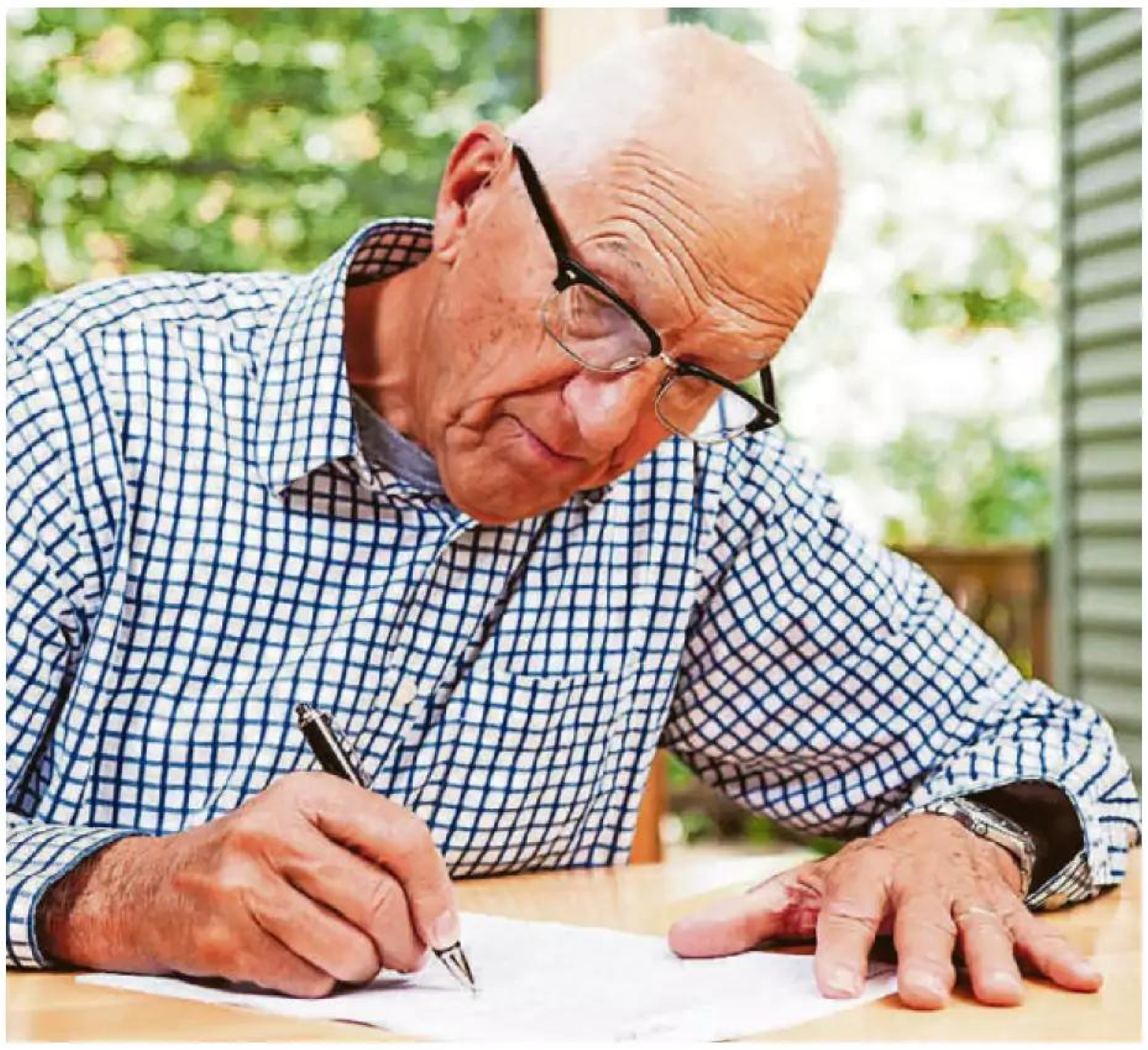
YOUR MONEY

Edited by **HARVEY JONES**



Take a lead on pet care after you die

One in three Britons are investigating leaving money to charity in their will, with one in 10 planning to bankroll their pets after their death. But it's vitally important to do your homework first

MONEY

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HOUND AS A POUND *Identify a trustee to look after your pet's funds*

While most people want family and loved ones to inherit their money when they go, others are thinking about leaving a different kind of legacy. More than half of UK adults are considering leaving money to more than just relatives, with 36% looking at charities and one in 10 hoping to support their pets, new research from Confused.com shows.

Bequeathing money to charity in either a will or life insurance is surprisingly straightforward, said Tom Vaughan, life insurance expert at Confused.com: "In much the same way you would name a person as a beneficiary, leaving a portion of your estate to a charity involves naming them and specifying how much you'd like to give, usually a percentage of the value." Choosing the right charity matters, he added. "Use the Charity Commission website to research your chosen charities thoroughly, reviewing their accounts, achievements, and understanding how the money will be used to help."

It may take a little extra time, but Vaughan said you can be confident your money is going where it will have the most impact.

Looking after pets is more complicated. "You can only name legal entities as beneficiaries in your will or life insurance. Pets are treated as property in the eyes of the law, so making sure they're provided for is a more involved process," Vaughan said.

One solution is to name a trusted caregiver and make them a life insurance beneficiary, although Vaughan cautions: "They aren't legally required to spend the money on the pet, even if you specify that's what it's for."

A more secure method is a trust, with a trustee managing the funds to cover pet care, vet bills and other expenses.

If no one can care for your pet, you can also leave them in a charity's care. Vaughan says these charities often provide lifetime care programmes and help re-home pets, giving them a secure and happy future.

Gifts to qualifying UK charities are completely exempt from inheritance tax (IHT). The value of the donation is deducted from your estate's total value before any IHT liability is calculated, which effectively reduces the size of the estate subject to the standard 40% rate.

If you leave at least 10% of your net estate (the portion above the IHT nil-rate bands and other reliefs) to a registered charity in your will, then the IHT rate on the remaining taxable portion of your estate is reduced from 40% to 36%.

> *"Gifts to qualifying UK charities are completely exempt from IHT"*

Older OAPs set to pay more tax under Reeves

TAKE A HIKE
Chancellor Rachel Reeves

Edited by **HARVEY JONES**

Rachel Reeves is about to reopen one of the most bitter fault lines in retirement, and older state pensioners will feel the greatest pain. Many older pensioners already receive a far lower pension than newer retirees. Now Reeves is lining them up to pay more tax. It's the direct result of a frozen tax threshold and a clumsy political workaround that creates a two-tier system among pensioners.

At the heart of the mess is the frozen personal allowance. The income tax threshold has been stuck at £12,570 since 2021. Thanks to Reeves, it will now remain frozen until at least 2030/31. The freeze was originally introduced by the Conservatives and hit tens of millions of workers, pushing many into higher tax brackets. Many of these will be pensioners, some of whom never expected to pay income tax at all in retirement.

Now comes the crunch. Thanks to the triple lock, the full new state pension is on course to rise above the personal allowance from April 2027. That would mean pensioners living solely on the state pension becoming income taxpayers overnight, a practical nightmare for them and a logistical headache for HMRC.

Reeves claims to have a "simple" solution. Pensioners whose only income is the state pension won't pay income tax on it during this Parliament, even if it creeps above the allowance. That sounds reassuring. The problem is that there isn't one state pension. There are two.

Those who reached state pension age from April 6, 2016 receive the new state pension, a flat-rate payment based on National Insurance contributions. From next April it will be worth up to £12,548 a year, rising to around £12,862 in 2027/28, £292 above the personal allowance.

Under Reeves's plan, these pensioners will be excused the tax bill, around £58 at first, but rising year by year after that. They are protected to the end of this Parliament.

It's a different story for older pensioners, who retired before April 6, 2016, and received the basic state pension instead of the new one.

From April it will pay a maximum of just £9,615 a year, a long-standing source of anger.

On its own, the basic pension sits below the tax threshold. However, millions of older pensioners receive extra income through Serps or the state second pension (S2P).

Those additional payments count as taxable income today, and will continue to do so under Reeves's plan. If an older pensioner's total income from state pension and additions exceeds £12,570, they will pay tax on it. Reeves's workaround does nothing for them.

So we end up with a glaring injustice. A pensioner on the higher new state pension pays no income tax. An older pensioner on a lower basic pension, topped up by Serps or S2P, may pay tax. Reeves calls this simple. In reality, it entrenches inequality, adds complexity, and leaves millions of older pensioners feeling abandoned once again.

Reeves could have avoided this by raising the personal allowance in line with the new state pension, or exempting additional state pension from tax. But she created a two-tier fix – and older pensioners are paying the price.

> ***"Reeves' created a two-tier fix, older pensioners are paying the price"***

SAVERS' GOLD RUSH
£2.45bn was paid into NS&I last November

NS&I cuts rates after Bank wields the axe

Savings rates are under threat after the Bank of England cut base rates in December, and National Savings & Investments (NS&I) is among the first to blink. Government-backed NS&I has now cut rates on its one, two, three and five-year British Savings Bonds, just two months after hiking them on November 7.

Sarah Coles, head of personal finance at Hargreaves Lansdown, said the higher rates triggered a surge of new savings, with £2.45billion paid into NS&I in November alone: "Those higher fixed rates have done the job. Now they've been cut."

Today, NS&I savers will get 4.07% on its one-year Guaranteed Growth Bond, down from 4.20% before. They get 3.98% over two years (previously 4.10%), 4.02% over three years (previously 4.16%), and 4.05% over five years (previously 4.15%).

Savers need a minimum of £500 and can invest a maximum of £1million. After the fixed-term period, they can withdraw their cash or reinvest. NS&I also offers Guaranteed Income Bonds, which pay interest monthly.

Coles urged savers to shop around, as better deals are available from online banks and savings platforms.

OakNorth Bank pays 4.25% on its one-year fixed-rate bond, while Hampshire Trust Bank pays 4.31% a year for five years. Many savers, especially pensioners, appreciate the security that comes with saving via Treasury-backed NS&I. However, bank deposits are also protected under the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS), with the sum protected now increased to £120,000 per person, per financial institution.

There's also protection for temporary high balances of up to £1.4m for six months, following major life events such as an inheritance. FSCS protection applies to UK-authorised banks, building societies and credit unions.

Cost-of-dying crisis hits home as funeral prices rocket 5.3%

The cost of living isn't the only thing going up – so is the cost of dying. Families spend an average of £4,510 on a traditional attended funeral, according to SunLife's Cost of Dying Report for 2026, up 5.3% on last year. That's the biggest annual increase since 2016. Once send-off costs such as memorials, catering, venue hire and flowers are added, total spend hits £5,822.

Many are saving money by opting for a simple attended funeral, which includes the core elements of a traditional service but with fewer add-ons, bringing the cost down to £3,828. Costs vary widely depending on location, with London the most expensive and North East England and Northern Ireland among the cheapest.

SunLife chief executive Mark Screeton said the cost of saying goodbye continues to rise faster than many can afford. "We're seeing more people turning to simple attended funerals, allowing families to celebrate their loved one's life without overspending."

Direct cremations, which remove the formal service or viewing, are increasingly popular and can cut costs to £1,628 on average. Even so, 86% still hold a memorial or wake, bringing the total spend to around £2,949.

Screeton urged families to plan ahead, as families who knew the deceased's funeral wishes cut an average of £335 from send-off costs. "This can create a meaningful farewell without unnecessary stress or cost at an already difficult time," he said.

Lindesay Mace, co-manager of funeral poverty charity Down to Earth, said: "We see the devastating effects on people's health and their ability to grieve."

Many Britons make some provision through savings, life insurance or funeral plans, but only 42% save enough to cover the full cost.

One in seven families face financial hardship, needing to find an extra £2,365 on average, with some borrowing from loan sharks or turning to crowdfunding.

ENTERPRISE

Edited by **MAISHA FROST**

You'll never walk alone with a PM

Highs and lows or ups and downs – Pocket Mountains (PM) loves them all as it redraws the UK publishing landscape with walking guides for those wanting easy ways to discover more about what's on their doorsteps or a new place they are visiting. Covering more than 70 areas across Scotland, England, Wales and Ireland, each nuanced, enlightening gem costing £6.99 charts up to 40 inspirational trips from cities and coasts to districts and counties.

Now the Scotland-based business, started by publishing entrepreneurs Robbie Porteous and April Simmons in 2003, features 80 titles and has a target of 120.

On course for a turnover of close to £1m, its appeal continues to grow as a new style travelling companion embracing wellness for older customers and younger ones turning away from lives dominated by screens. "We've got a broad customer base and have found many like a tangible guide they own and can hold – that the internet is not everything. The quality isn't there," says Porteous, who runs the design and production side with Simmons in charge of text and editing.

"Our initial opportunity stemmed from traditional guides that seemed dated and expensive," she adds. "We try to remove the barrier to people getting outdoors by making books that are affordable and are fun. Walking should be enjoyable and doesn't always need fancy gear or expensive equipment – you just need to know where to go."

Covid was the company's turning point with turnover doubling in its wake as more sought space. But resisting universal advice to go down an e-books route, another radical aspect of the enterprise's commercial approach is its sales strategy that includes garden centres and farm shops along with Amazon, high street book shops, cafes and visitor information centres.

PM now prints in Glasgow and its valued state of independence also extends to investment with a self-funded, organic growth strategy.

Success also creates work for a network of freelance authors including a refresh of titles every couple of years reflecting where required different land access rules and rights of way.

Now it is branching out further into Ireland and more lowlands with Lincolnshire, Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire and Gloucestershire. The larger outdoor retailer sector also offers possibilities for PM. "Mountain Warehouse is one," suggests Porteous, who also sees a role for the guidebooks in NHS hospital shops because of their strong mind and body health connection.

Imbued with hope and encouraging obstacles to be viewed positively, the company takes its name and spirited approach from a quote in novelist Jules Verne's adventure classic In Search Of The Castaways. "We need to remember everyone has a mountain in them," says Porteous.

● *pocketmountains.com*

"We try to remove the barrier to people getting outdoors"

TOUR GUIDES *Entrepreneurs Robbie Porteous and April Simmons*

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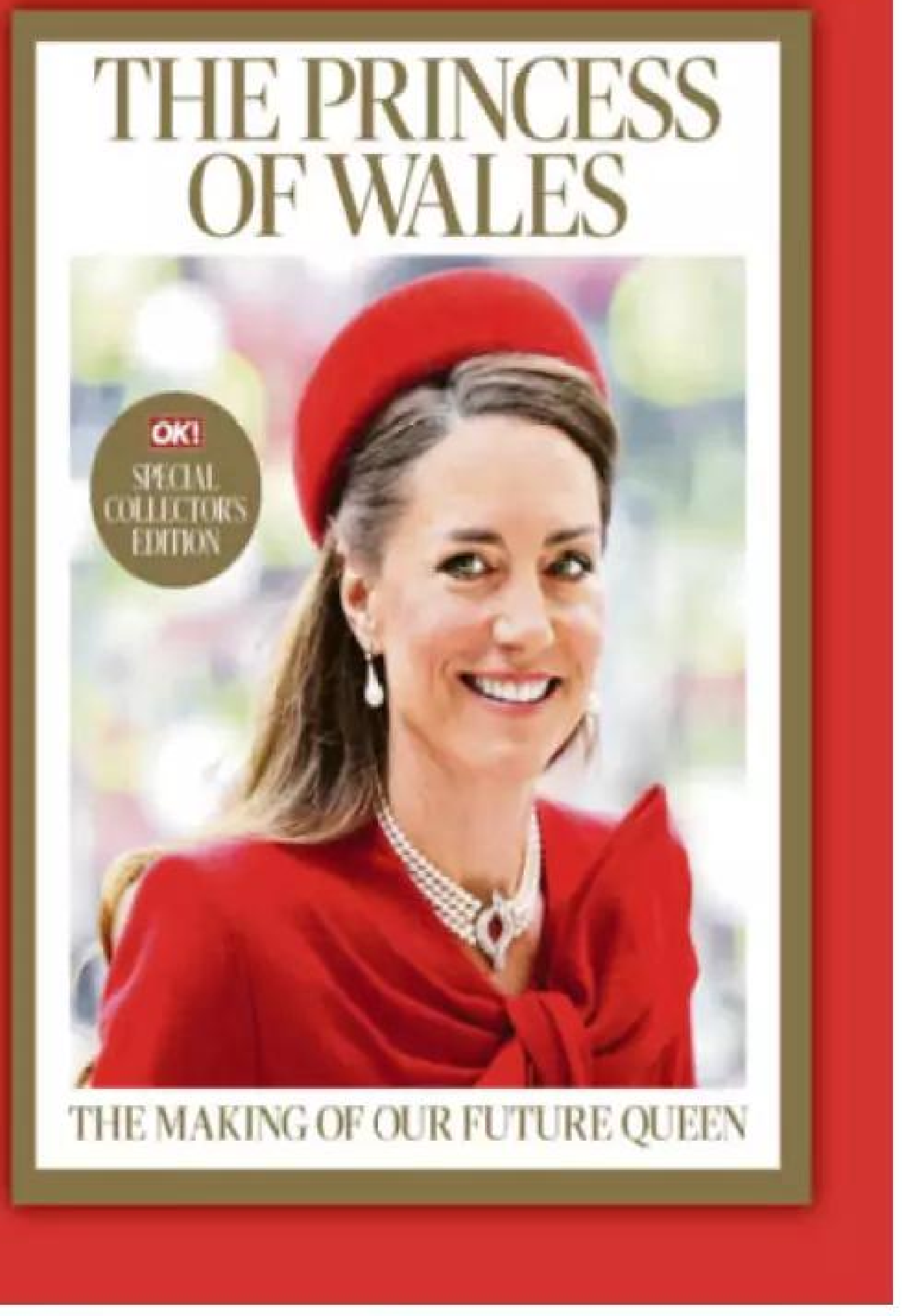

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EASY ACCESS

Provider	Account	Term or Notice	Min	AER	Interest Paid
cahoot	Sunny Day Saver (5)	None	£1	5.00%	Yearly
Chase	Chase Saver Boosted	None	£1	4.50% **A**	Monthly
Mansfield BS	Triple Access Saver (1st)	None	£1	4.25% **A**	Yearly
Manchester BS	Rainy Day Saver	None	£1	4.25%	Yearly

SHORT TERM FIXED RATES

Provider	Account	Term or Notice	Min	AER	Interest Paid
Union Bank of India (UK) Ltd	Fixed Rate Deposit	1 Yr Bnd	£1,000	4.45% **F**	On maturity
Union Bank of India (UK) Ltd	Union Premier Bond	1 Yr Bnd	£5,000	4.45% **F**	On maturity
Chetwood Bank	Fixed Savings	1 Yr Bnd	£1,000	4.26% **F**	On maturity
Rova	Rova Savings Vault	1 Yr Bnd	£1,000	4.25% **F**	On maturity

LONG TERM FIXED RATES

Provider	Account	Term or Notice	Min	AER	Interest Paid
Hampshire Trust Bank	Online Fixed Saver (44)	5 Yr Bnd	£1	4.31% **F**	Yearly
Chetwood Bank	Fixed Rate Savings	5 Yr Bnd	£1,000	4.30% **F**	Yearly
UBL UK	Fixed Term Deposit	4 Yr Bnd	£2,000	4.26% **F**	Yearly
UBL UK	Fixed Term Deposit	5 Yr Bnd	£2,000	4.26% **F**	Yearly

NOTICE ACCOUNTS

Provider	Account	Term or Notice	Min	AER	Interest Paid
Earl Shilton BS	180 Day Notice Online	180 Day	£5,000	4.50%	Yearly
GB Bank	120 Day Notice 3	120 Day	£1,000	4.33%	Yearly
Earl Shilton BS	120 Day Notice Online	120 Day	£5,000	4.30%	Yearly
Mansfield BS	eSaver 180 (3rd)	180 Day	£100	4.25% **A**	Yearly

VARIABLE ISAs

Provider	Account	Term or Notice	Min	AER	Interest Paid
Plum	Plum Cash ISA	None	£1	4.27% **A**	Monthly
Atom Bank	Easy Access Cash ISA	None	£1	4.25%	Monthly
Aldermore	ISA Single Access (7)	None	£100	4.15%	Yearly
Moneybox	Moneybox Cash ISA	None	£500	4.15% **A**	Monthly

BALANCE TRANSFER CREDIT CARDS

Provider	Product Name	0% Period	Fee	APR
TSB	Plat Balance Transfer MC	38 mths	3.49%	24.9%
Barclaycard	Platinum Balance Transfer V	36 mths	3.45%	24.9%
Tesco Bank	Clubcard CC BT MC	36 mths	3.45%	24.9%
Virgin Money	Balance Transfer CC MC	35 mths	2.95%	24.9%

PURCHASE CREDIT CARDS

Provider	Product Name	0% Period	APR
Lloyds Bank	Plat 0% Purch & BT CC Visa	25 mths	24.9%
M&S Bank	Purchase Plus Offer MC	25 mths	24.9%
TSB	Platinum Purchase Card MC	25 mths	24.9%
Barclaycard	Plat 21 Mth BT 24 Mth Pur V	24 mths	24.9%

FIRST TIME BUYERS

Provider	Initial Rate	Period	Max LTV	Fee	Redemption Charge
Nationwide BS	4.68%	for 2 years	95%	Nil	1st 2 yrs
HSBC	4.79%	to 28.2.28	95%	Nil	To 28.2.28
Virgin Money	4.72%	to 1.4.31	95%	Nil	To 1.4.31
HSBC	4.72%	to 28.2.31	95%	Nil	To 28.2.31

SHORT TERM FIXED RATES

Provider	Initial Rate	Period	Max LTV	Fee	Redemption Charge
Santander	3.55%	to 2.4.28	60%	£999	To 2.4.28
HSBC	4.24%	to 28.2.28	90%	Nil	To 28.2.28
Santander	3.69%	to 2.4.29	75%	£999	To 2.4.29
Furness BS	4.24%	for 3 years	90%	£999	1st 3 yrs

LONG TERM FIXED RATES

Provider	Initial Rate	Period	Max LTV	Fee	Redemption Charge
first direct	3.75%	for 5 years	60%	£490	1st 5 yrs
first direct	3.84%	for 5 years	75%	£490	1st 5 yrs
HSBC	4.19%	to 28.2.31	90%	£999	To 28.2.31
Nationwide BS	4.64%	for 10 years	80%	£999	1st 10 yrs

DISCOUNTED VARIABLE RATES

Provider	Initial Rate	Period	Max LTV	Fee	Redemption Charge
Furness BS	4.14%	for 2 years	80%	£999	1st 2 yrs
Furness BS	4.54%	for 2 years	90%	£999	1st 2 yrs
Newbury BS	4.14%	for 3 years	75%	£850	1st 3 yrs
Earl Shilton BS	5.79%	for 5 years	90%	£724	1st 5 yrs

REMORTGAGES

Provider	Initial Rate	Period	Max LTV	Fee	Redemption Charge
first direct	3.70%**F**	for 2 years	60%	£490	1st 2 yrs
Furness BS	3.90%**F**	for 2 years	80%	£999	1st 2 yrs
HSBC	3.84%**F**	to 28.2.31	75%	£999	To 28.2.31
Nationwide BS	4.05%**F**	for 5 years	85%	£999	1st 5 yrs

PERSONAL LOANS - BASED ON £10,000 OVER 5 YEARS

Provider	APR	Monthly Repayment	Total Amount Repayable
Novuna Personal Finance	5.7%	£191.27	£11,476.20
M&S Bank	5.8%	£191.71	£11,502.60
TSB	5.9%	£192.15	£11,529.00
Santander	5.9%	£192.15	£11,529.00

CURRENT ACCOUNTS WITH CREDIT INTEREST OR REWARD

Provider	Account	AER or Amount Paid
TSB	Spend & Save Plus	£5 pm
Nationwide BS	FlexDirect	5.00% **A**
LHV Bank	LHV Current Account	3.75%
Kroo Bank Ltd	Current Account	2.65%

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EXPRESS UK PROPERTY ON THE HOME FRONT

Edited by **DEBORAH STONE**

Put your house on a new-build

New Year's resolutions come in all shapes and sizes. You might have sworn to lose weight, give up alcohol – even go vegan for Veganuary – or you may have promised yourself that this is the year to find your forever home.

Whether you're downsizing or rightsizing, there comes a time when most people realise their home is too big or too difficult for them to maintain. Yet most remain in unsuitable homes because they don't want to leave a lifetime of memories, or because the sheer effort of moving is beyond them.

Finding a suitable new home can also be difficult but it's never too late to look, as Martin and Sue Everett – aged 86 and 84 – can confirm.

The couple had always lived in doer-upper period homes and had no interest in moving to a new-build house. But curiosity got the better of them when they spotted St George's Place in Reydon, Suffolk, less than 10 miles from their four-bedroom 1800s-built family home in Halesworth.

Seeing inside the houses made them view new-build developments completely differently, something that's happening to more people who were previously devoted to period features. Now the Everetts have "rightsized" to a five-bedroom house at St George's Place and are delighted to have started a new phase of life.

"The garden is a much more manageable space, which really suits us," says Sue.

"Our old house had lots of steps, even just to get into the kitchen, and as we are getting older we were starting to see this as a bit of a problem. This new home is far better suited to our needs."

It's also big enough for family and friends to visit and stay over – they have three children, nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren – and it's much easier to heat and keep clean. Martin was impressed by the development's mix of house sizes and styles – from three to five bedrooms and terraced to detached – and adds: "Everything is new, efficient, and works as it should, which means lower energy bills. It feels like we've moved into the modern world, especially compared to our old house, which was built in the 1800s and always needed maintenance."

FRESH START
Sue and Martin in their new home

St George's Place is on the edge of Reydon on the road into the popular seaside town of Southwold, which makes the development even more attractive.

"I can step outside and be at the beach in just 25 minutes," says Martin, "and when the kids visit with all their children and dogs, it's been wonderful taking them down to the beach."

Although only a small development, three-bedroom houses are still available from £449,950, four bedrooms from £569,950 and five bedrooms from £839,950 (01502 440525; hill.co.uk).

All have an air source heat pump and underfloor heating on the ground floor, electric car charging points, high-efficiency double glazed UPVC windows and carpets in all bedrooms, landings and stairs.

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TODAY'S TV ONES TO WATCH

by **MIKE WARD** *TV critic*

THE 1970S DIET: COULD IT WORK FOR YOU?, 5, 7PM

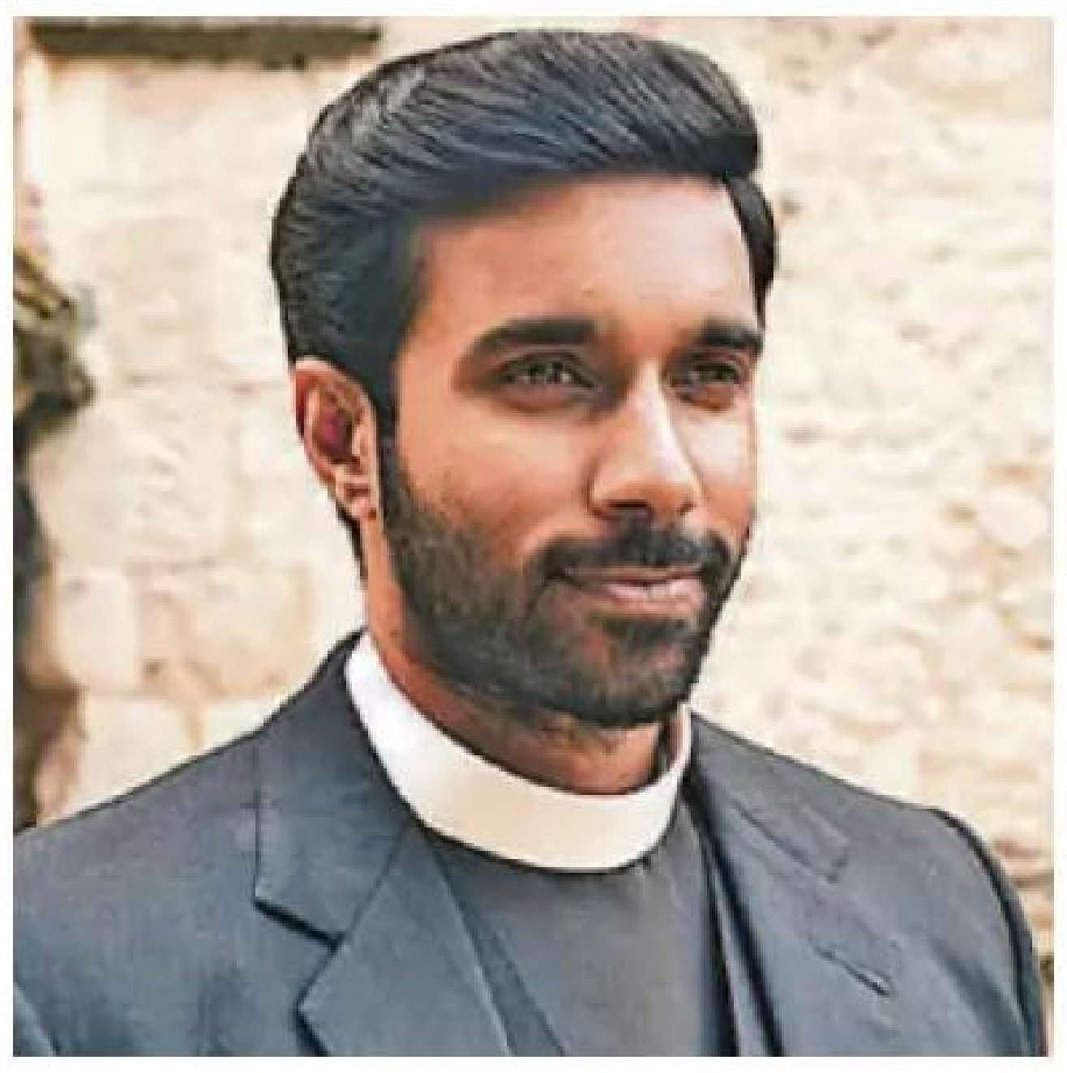
IF THE average British diet of 50 years ago was really so awful, how come that obesity levels back then were so much lower than they are today?

Presenter Josie Gibson, who's rarely been happy with her weight, has been wondering if maybe a Seventies diet, against all odds, could be the answer to her prayers.

And so Josie decides to follow one for a whole fortnight.

If nothing else, it sounds the perfect excuse to eat lots of lovely powdered mash and Vesta instant curries.

The tasty treats that your kettle was made for.



GRANTCHESTER, ITV1, 9PM

SERIES 10 of this cosy crime favourite starts on a positive note, vicar Alphy (Rishi Nair) having settled beautifully into the community. The only thing that could dampen the mood would be if someone were suddenly shot dead.

Someone called Reg, perhaps, possibly played by a guest star such as Neil Stuke, maybe having staged a one-man protest outside the church, claiming Christianity is too commercialised. But that's hardly likely to happen, is it? And even if it does, everyone will assume it's suicide.

Other than Robson Green's Geordie, perhaps, who knows by now how these storylines tend to work.

Pick of the day

KIRSTIE AND PHIL'S LOVE IT OR LIST IT, C4, 8PM

DOMESTIC DILEMMA *Julia and Simon with Kirstie and Phil*

FIGHTS, FRIGHTS AND MOVING TALES

LOVE It Or List It is a funny old show. I've never quite understood how it's meant to work. Obviously, I get the basic idea. Each week Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer visit a couple who've been bickering, often for months, sometimes for years, over where their future should lie: in their current home, once it's been done up, or somewhere new.

Phil always urges the pair to up sticks, and sets about hunting down suitable properties. Kirstie insists they should stay put, just carry out the work required to suit their evolving needs. And she always implies that's the easier option. "Yeah, total doddle, mate," she'll cry. "Just knock them stupid walls down. Bish, bash, bosh! Job's a good'un!" (What, you thought Kirstie Allsopp was posh? Naah, she just puts that on for the cameras.) No one ever advises the couple to seek counselling. Maybe that would be considered rude.

But the thing I don't quite get is that, in the time it takes to do their current place up – which they always do regardless, to see if they'd be happy to stay, once all the bish-bash-boshing is complete – all the lovely properties Phil has found them will surely have been snapped up. Or is it only ever meant to be a rough guide to what their money might fetch?

I don't know. It always seems strangely vague. Then maybe I'm overthinking it. It's not as if I actually care that much. Even if I did, I could probably find the answers by contacting the nice publicity people at Channel 4. (They'd probably prefer me to "reach out" to them, as a lot of people seem to nowadays, but that tends to make me dislocate my shoulder).

Anyway, tonight's pair, Julia and Simon, can't agree on whether or not to stay in their current house, a Sixties property in East Renfrewshire. They've only been there three years, but they're unhappy with its kitchen, its dining room and its bathroom, not least because the latter lacks a bath.

"So why the heck did you buy it then?" surprisingly no one asks.

Simon is the one who'd be happy to relocate, while Julia is determined to stay put, having moved six times in 10 years.

I once had a tortoise who did that.

BEST SOAP

EMMERDALE, ITV1, 8PM

April has finally told her family everything and is determined to go to the police, despite their fears Celia will wreak revenge.

BEST GAME

THE TRAITORS, BBC1, 8PM

Claudia Winkleman orchestrates the subterfuge as the players arrive at a breakfast that leads to more questions than answers.

BEST DOC

DIGGING FOR BRITAIN, BBC2, 9PM

Scotland's Kelvin Wheelies skatepark, one of the largest Roman cemeteries ever found in Britain and a Roman bathhouse are explored.

BEST FILM

LA CONFIDENTIAL, FILM4, 9PM

Kim Basinger picked up an Oscar for her role in this thriller, which sees Russell Crowe and Guy Pearce star as cops in a corrupt 1950s LA.

TODAY'S PREVIEWS ARE ON THE PREVIOUS PAGE

FILM RATINGS

★★★★★ BRILLIANT
★★★★ VERY GOOD
★★★ GOOD
★★ AVERAGE
★ BAD

(R) REPEAT

ALL PROGRAMMES ARE LISTED IN GREENWICH MEAN TIME (GMT).

BBC One

6.00am **Breakfast** News headlines.
9.30 **Morning Live** Magazine.
10.45 **Rip Off Britain: Scams**
11.30 **Homes Under the Hammer** Properties in South Shields, Birmingham and Dover. (R)
12.15pm **Bargain Hunt** From Hungerford, Berkshire. (R)
1.00 **BBC News at One; Weather**
2.00 **Lost and Found in the Lakes** Lost treasures are reunited with previous owners.
2.30 **Animal Park** A lonely lorikeet looks for love.
3.00 **I Escaped to the Country** Catching up with previous house hunters in Bedfordshire and Lincolnshire. (R)
3.45 **Garden Rescue** Creating a sustainable garden for a Paralympian couple.
4.30 **The Travelling Auctioneers** Robin Johnson and Briony Harford help a brother and sister sell their heirlooms.
5.15 **Pointless** Alexander Armstrong is joined by Judi Love to host the quiz.
6.00 **BBC News at Six; Weather**
6.30 **Regional News; Weather**

9.30pm, CAN YOU KEEP...?: Dawn French and Mark Heap

7

7.00 **The One Show** Angellica Bell and Gethin Jones present the live magazine show.
7.30 **EastEnders** Ravi is thrown into a dangerous situation and Linda attends her school reunion. Penny realises Gina knows her secret.

8

8.00 **The Traitors** The remaining players arrive to a breakfast that leads to more questions than answers, and a mission reveals just how important the contestants' lives really are to one another. Can new leads present an opportunity?

9

9.00 **The Traitors: Uncloaked** With celebrity fans Angela Scanlon and Max Balegde.
9.30 NEW **Can You Keep a Secret?** Comedy about a man who discovers the father he thought was dead is living in the loft. Starring Dawn French.

10

10.00 **BBC News at Ten**
10.30 **Regional News; Weather**
10.40 **Match of the Day** Highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Fulham v Chelsea and Manchester City v Brighton & Hove Albion. Plus, Bournemouth v Tottenham Hotspur, Brentford v Sunderland, Crystal Palace v Aston Villa, Everton v Wolverhampton Wanderers, Burnley v Manchester United, Newcastle United v Leeds United and West Ham United v Nottingham Forest.

11

12 MIDNIGHT

12.10am FILM Eddie the Eagle (2016, PG) Biopic of British underdog ski jumper Eddie Edwards, who became a national sensation during the 1988 Winter Olympics. Starring Taron Egerton and Hugh Jackman. ★★★★ **1.50** Weather for the Week Ahead **1.55-6.00am** BBC News

BBC Two

6.00am **Lost and Found in the Lakes** With Helen Skelton. (R)
6.30 **The Travelling Auctioneers** A pair of siblings hope to turn heirlooms into a holiday. (R)
7.15 **I Escaped to the Country** (R)
8.00 **Sign Zone: Weatherman Walking: The Welsh Coast** Harlech to Barmouth. (R)
8.30 **Sign Zone: Robson Green's Weekend Escapes** (R)
9.00 **BBC News** Headlines.
11.15 **Politics Live** The latest from Westminster and beyond.
1.00pm **Impossible** Quiz. (R)
1.45 **Brainbox Challenge** (R)
2.15 **The Manor Reborn** (R)
3.15 **Hidden Treasures of the National Trust** (R)
4.15 **Madagascar** (R)
5.15 **Flog It!** Valuing antiques in Longleat, Wiltshire. (R)
6.00 **Richard Osman's House of Games** With Huge Davies, Amy Dowden, Humphrey Ker and Jamie-Lee O'Donnell.
6.30 **Robson Green's Weekend Escapes** Robson is joined by his footballing hero Alan Shearer to go fishing.

8pm, HOW TO SLEEP WELL WITH MICHAEL...: Michael Mosley

7.00 **Celebrity Antiques Road Trip** Comedian Lucy Porter and Chaser Jenny Ryan visit antique shops in south Wales, and go on an alcohol-themed spending spree. On hand to help them are experts Serhat Ahmet and Steven Moore. (R)
8.00 **How to Sleep Well with Michael Mosley** As more people than ever struggle with their sleep, Michael Mosley uses the latest science to explore how this impacts our health and what can be done to improve our sleep. (R)
9.00 NEW **Digging for Britain** Alice Roberts and Tori Herridge present evidence of a bloody massacre in the Highlands, and one of the largest Roman cemeteries ever found in Britain. Plus, Bradford's first Muslim burial.
10.00 **One Foot in the Grave** Victor Meldrew finds himself forced into early retirement, but is determined not to end up on the scrapheap. Richard Wilson stars in the first-ever episode of the comedy. From 1990. (R)
10.30 **Newsnight; Weather**
11.00 **The Million Pound Shaman Scam** Part one of two. Documentary about Hampstead fraudster Juliette D'Souza, who posed as a faith healer. In 2008, journalist Tim Rayment received a tip about an incredibly bizarre crime. (R)

12.00m't Sign Zone: Titanic Sinks Tonight. Those aboard the lifeboats make a life-or-death decision. Last in series. (R) **1.00** Sign Zone: Mo Salah: Never Give Up (R) **2.00** Sign Zone: Waiting for the Out (R) **2.50** Sign Zone: Amanda & Alan's Greek Job (R) **3.20-6.00am** This Is BBC Two

ITV1

6.00am **Good Morning Britain** A lively mix of news, current affairs and lifestyle features.
9.30 **Lorraine** Entertainment and the latest fashion news.
10.00 **This Morning** Topical daily magazine, featuring a mix of celebrity chat, showbusiness news, advice and discussion. Including Local Weather.
12.30pm **Loose Women** Celebrity interviews and topical debate.
1.30 **ITV News; Weather**
1.55 **Regional News; Weather**
2.00 **Dickinson's Real Deal** The dealers are in Burton-on-Trent.
3.00 **Time Is Money** Quiz show, hosted by Sara Davies.
3.59 **Regional Weather**
4.00 **Deal or No Deal** Jason tries to open the 22 red boxes in the right order.
5.00 **The Chase** David from London, Robert from Newcastle, Andrea from Leigh-on-Sea and Charlotte from Leicester take part.
6.00 **Regional News; Weather**
6.30 **ITV Evening News** A round-up of the headlines; Weather

9pm, GRANTCHESTER: Rishi Nair

7.30 **Millionaire Hot Seat** Jeremy Clarkson hosts the quiz where each episode sees six hopefuls compete for a one-million-pound prize – however, only one player can take their place in the Hot Seat at a time.
8.00 **Emmerdale** A deal is struck and a mission is given out, while April stands her ground.
8.30 **Coronation Street** The aftermath of the crash continues to impact one couple as they face a life-or-death situation.
9.00 NEW **Grantchester** A suspicious death interrupts the Easter Fete, and Alphy attempts to use the case as a distraction from his personal life. Return of the detective drama, starring Robson Green and Rishi Nair.
10.00 **ITV News at Ten; Weather**
10.30 **Regional News; Weather**
10.45 FILM **Taken** (2008, 18) An American teenager travelling through Europe is abducted by a gang of sex traffickers. However, what the kidnappers do not realise is that the girl's father is a former CIA agent, who employs all his old skills as he searches for the criminals and tries to rescue his daughter. Thriller, starring Liam Neeson, Famke Janssen, Maggie Grace and Leland Orser. ★★★★

12.15am Millionaire Hot Seat. Quiz show. (R) **12.40** Gallagher PREM Unleashed. Action from the ninth round of fixtures, including Bath v Exeter Chiefs and Northampton Saints v Harlequins. (R) **1.05** Shop on TV **3.00** Riches (R) **3.50** Unwind with ITV **5.05-6.00am** Deal or No Deal (R)

Channel 4

6.25am **Cheers** Triple bill. (R)
7.45 **Everybody Loves Raymond** Triple bill of the comedy. (R)
9.10 **Frasier** Four episodes. (R)
11.10 **American Pickers** Frank's plan goes up in smoke. (R)
12.05pm **Channel 4 News Summary** Headlines.
12.10 **Car S.O.S** The boys secretly fix up a '70s supercar. (R)
1.10 **Find It, Fix It, Flog It** Simon and Henry upcycle a horse yoke and a hay trailer. (R)
2.10 **Countdown** With Debbie McGee in Dictionary Corner.
3.00 **A Place in the Sun** Erica and Ian want to find the perfect holiday home on their favourite island of Fuerteventura. (R)
4.00 **A New Life in the Sun** Emily and Dave open their new pub in France, only for kitchen dramas and an overflowing bar to keep them on their toes.
5.00 **Junior Bake Off** It's bread day for the heat one bakers, as Liam Charles challenges them to put the pizazz into pizza.
6.00 **A Place in the Sun** A couple search on the Costa Blanca.

9pm, PATIENCE: Ella Maisy Purvis

7.00 **Channel 4 News** A round-up of all the latest headlines, in-depth interviews and analysis of political developments and current affairs. Plus, the day's leading sports stories and up-to-the-minute weather reports.
8.00 NEW **Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It** Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer return, beginning by helping Julia and Simon – plus their four children – who bought their home in Waterfoot in East Renfrewshire three years ago.
9.00 NEW **Patience** The arrival of new detective Frankie Monroe leads to tension between her and Patience as the pair look into the murder of a famous photographer. Return of the drama, starring Ella Maisy Purvis and Jessica Hynes.
10.00 **Social Media Monsters** The story of a woman who advertised incredible holiday deals for friends and family on her Facebook page. But when the bookings then led to countless problems, Durham police got involved.
11.00 NEW **The Murder of Laci Peterson** Double bill. Documentary examining the case of Laci Peterson, who was eight months' pregnant when she went missing in Modesto, California in 2002; media attention escalates.

12.50am In the Footsteps of Killers (R) **1.45** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (R) **2.35** Know Your S**t: Inside Our Guts (R) **3.30** Jamie's £1 Wonders (R) **4.25** Devon and Cornwall (R) **4.50** Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It (R) **5.45-6.25am** Countdown. With Debbie McGee in Dictionary Corner. (R)

5

6.00am **Milkshake!** Children's TV.
9.15 **Jeremy Vine** Discussion.
11.30 **Storm & Alexis** Discussion.
12.45pm **5 News at Lunchtime**
12.50 **Matt Allwright** Debate on the day's biggest stories, and consumer advice to help viewers save money.
2.00 **Vanessa** Discussion show, presented by Vanessa Feltz.
3.00 **The Madame Blanc Mysteries** A 1980s-themed 35th wedding anniversary party leads to tragedy. (R)
4.00 **Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun** Ex-probation officer Gill swaps coach tours for goat farm trips to boost her B&B.
5.00 **5 News at 5** Headlines.
6.00 **Secrets of the Royal Palaces** A look at tales of palace duty, going behind the scenes of Elizabeth II's final appearance on Buckingham Palace's balcony. Plus, the story of the palace paintings chief Anthony Blunt, who kept his job despite being a known Soviet spy. Last in series (R); 5 News Update

9pm, SURGEONS: A MATTER OF LIFE...: Colonel Mark Foster

7.00 **The 1970s Diet: Could It Work For You?** Part one of two. Josie Gibson immerses herself in the food, drink and health culture of the 1970s to discover if the diet could have something to teach modern eaters; 5 News Update
8.00 NEW **Casualty 24/7: Every Second Counts** Life in the A&E department of Barnsley Hospital. Sister Jane attempts to stay on top of the growing number of patients. Also, the chute that is used to transport bloods efficiently has broken.
9.00 NEW **Surgeons: A Matter of Life or Death** Surgeons Col Mark Foster and Sam George are hoping to stop ex-soldier Luke's extreme nerve pain with a groundbreaking procedure, but it poses a risk to his life.
10.30 **Ambulance: Code Red** Dr Jaspreet Rayet and critical care paramedic Lisa Brown are dispatched to 42-year-old Adam, who has broken his leg from a fall. Plus, paramedics race to the aid of a child who has stopped breathing. (R)
11.30 **Skin A&E** The team return and they've relocated to a new state-of-the-art clinic in Yorkshire. Dr Dev Shah is faced with the biggest lipoma the clinic has ever seen, and Dr Adil Sheraz meets an artist with an explosive cyst. (R)

12.30am Car Pound Cops (R) **1.00** PlayOJO Live Casino Show **3.00** Your Dream Kitchen for Less (R) **3.50** World's Most Scenic River Journeys (R) **4.35** The Wonderful World of Chocolate (R) **5.25** Entertainment News on 5 **5.35** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom (R) **5.45-6.00am** Milo (R)

ITV2

FREEVIEW 6

6.00am CITV **7.30** Celebrity Dinner Date **8.30** Olivia and Alex: Parenthood **9.25** The Only Way Is Essex **10.20** The Real Housewives of Miami **11.15** The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills **12.15pm** Dinner Date **1.15** Celebrity Dinner Date **2.15** The Only Way Is Essex **3.10** The Real Housewives of Orange County **4.10** The Real Housewives of Miami **5.00** The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills

6.00 Celebrity Catchphrase With Brenda Edwards, Emily Atack and Martin Kemp.

7.00 Deal or No Deal Gameshow.

8.00 The Real Housewives of Orange County Reality show. The ladies take out their aggressions in a flag football match.

9.00 TikTok: Murder Gone Viral The murder of 13-year-old Tristyn Bailey.

10.00 Family Guy Triple bill.

11.25 American Dad! Double bill.

12.25am Bob's Burgers **1.25** Olivia Attwood's Bad Boyfriends **2.25** Unwind with ITV **3.00-6.00am** Teleshopping

ITVQuiz

FREEVIEW 28

9.00am Deal or No Deal **10.00** Tipping Point **1.00pm** Lingo **2.00** Tenable **3.00** Beat the Chasers **4.00** Riddiculous **5.00** Deal or No Deal. Stephen Mulhern hosts as another contestant tries to open the 22 red boxes in the right order.

6.00 Lingo Triple bill. With contestants from London, Manchester and Sandbach; siblings-in-law Inka and Alex from London and Hastings, workmates Jeni and Mia from Croydon and Liverpool, plus pals Jenny and Kim from Kent take part; taking part are couple Rob and Jane, and two pairs of married Mancunians in the form of Stacey and Phil, and Kim and Gary.

9.00 Alan Carr's Epic Gameshow The comedian hosts an updated version of The Price Is Right, with eight players invited to come on down to contestants row to guess the value of a host of prizes.

10.00 Tipping Point Triple bill.

12.50am Tenable **1.45** Unwind with ITV **2.00-9.00am** Teleshopping

BBC3

FREEVIEW 23

7.00pm The Catch Up The news.

7.05 SpongeBob SquarePants

7.30 Top Gear Patagonia Special Double bill. Part one of two. A trip to the world's southernmost city; the conclusion of the two-part special.

9.35 Movies with Ali Plumb Radio 1's film buff Ali Plumb considers Tom Cruise's greatest on-screen stunts.

10.00 *FILM* **Mission: Impossible III** (2006, 12) A former secret agent ends up in a struggle to save his fiancee from a ruthless arms dealer. Action thriller sequel, starring Tom Cruise, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Michelle Monaghan and Simon Pegg. ★★★★

11.55 Confessions of a Steroid Gang How a north Wales father and son built a drug empire.

12.25am Confessions of a Steroid Gang: double bill **1.25** Top Gear Africa Special **3.25-4.00am** Confessions of a Steroid Gang

BBC4

FREEVIEW 9

7.00pm Thailand: Earth's Tropical Paradise The mountains and forests of northern Thailand. Last in series.

8.00 Mysterious Origins of Insects Exploring the realm of the creatures to better understand how they have evolved and scientists search for a single common insect ancestor.

9.00 Inside Chernobyl's Mega Tomb Following a team of engineers as they build a structure to entomb the ruins of the nuclear power plant.

10.00 Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy Triple bill of the 1970s espionage drama. George Smiley seeks out an invaluable friend; Smiley remembers the legendary head of Moscow Circus; Smiley decides the time has come to call on Jim Prideaux.

12.15am Mysterious Origins of Insects **1.15** Inside Chernobyl's Mega Tomb **2.15-3.15am** Thailand: Earth's Tropical Paradise

GB News

FREEVIEW 236

6.00am Breakfast with Eamonn and Ellie **9.30** Britain's Newsroom **12.00noon** PMQs Live **1.00** Good Afternoon Britain. Compelling stories from the UK. **3.00** Martin Daubney

6.00 Dewbs & Co Plain-speaking, straight-talking – Michelle Dewberry delivers her take on the day's news.

7.00 Farage An action-packed hour of topical discussion and debate.

8.00 Jacob Rees-Mogg's State Of The Nation Join Jacob for his unique and unmissable take on the news.

9.00 Patrick Christys Tonight Replay Join Patrick for two hours of spirited debate and news making interviews.

11.00 Patrick Christys Tonight Late Edition Full coverage of all the breaking news at home and abroad.

12.00m't The Late Show Live **2.00** Farage Replay **3.00** Patrick Christys Tonight Replay **5.00-6.00am** Patrick Christys Tonight Late Edition

U&Dave

FREEVIEW 19

7.35am Border Force: America's Gatekeepers **9.30** Guy Martin's Spitfire **11.00** Rick Stein's Mediterranean Escapes **12.00noon** Border Force: America's Gatekeepers **2.00** Robson's Extreme Fishing Challenge **3.00** Top Gear **5.00** Hairy Bikers' Best of British

6.00 Rick Stein's Mediterranean Escapes Trying Mediterranean food.

7.00 Would I Lie to You? With guest panellists Warwick Davis, Jason Manford, Paul Hollywood and Joan Bakewell.

7.40 Richard Osman's House of Games

9.00 QI XL Sandi Toksvig hosts a very varied episode, joined by panellists Ross Noble, Sara Pascoe and Sally Phillips.

10.00 Have I Got a Bit More News for You Anna Maxwell Martin hosts.

11.00 Taskmaster Mel Giedroyc's good nature is pushed to its limits.

12.00m't Mock the Week **12.40** Would I Lie to You? **2.00** Australian Ninja Warrior **3.20-4.00am** Meet the Richardsons

U&Drama

FREEVIEW 20

6.00am Teleshopping **7.20** At Home with the Braithwaites **8.15** Doctors **9.25** Classic Holby City **10.30** Classic Casualty **11.40** The Bill **12.40pm** Classic EastEnders **2.00** All Creatures Great and Small **3.05** Howards' Way **4.20** Bergerac **5.25** One Foot in the Grave

6.00 To the Manor Born DeVere brings his grocery business to the manor.

6.40 Last of the Summer Wine Double bill.

8.00 Darby and Joan Darby and Joan take a detour from Joan's quest for answers to help a friend of Darby's.

9.00 Sister Boniface Mysteries An artist is found bludgeoned to death.

10.00 New Tricks Special edition of the drama. Gerry and Steve investigate an unsolved murder in Glasgow.

11.15 Waking the Dead Part one of two. Two bodies are found in a former bank.

12.30am Hotel Portofino **1.40** One Foot in the Grave **2.15** The Brokenwood Mysteries **4.00-6.00am** Teleshopping

E4

FREEVIEW 13

6.00am Hollyoaks **6.55** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **7.00** Junior Bake Off **8.00** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA **9.00** The Goldbergs **10.00** The Simpsons **11.00** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA **1.00pm** The Simpsons: four episodes **3.00** The Goldbergs **4.00** Modern Family **5.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine

6.00 The Simpsons Double bill.

7.00 Hollyoaks Diane finds out her children have slipped out without permission.

7.30 The Simpsons Marge campaigns against a violent combat sport.

8.00 Billion Pound Cruise Daily life on the cruise ship the Symphony of the Seas.

9.00 Gogglebox Double bill.

11.05 Open House: The Great Sex Experiment Liam and Stacey take steps to realise a special fantasy he holds.

12.05am Naked Attraction. Luke and Abi look for love. **1.05** Billion Pound Cruise **2.10** Gogglebox **4.05** The Goldbergs **5.00-6.00am** Don't Tell the Bride

More4

FREEVIEW 18

8.55am Find It, Fix It, Flog It **10.00** A Place in the Sun **11.30** Come Dine with Me: five episodes **2.10pm** Four in a Bed: five episodes **4.50** A Place in the Sun: Home or Away **5.55** Car S.O.S

6.55 Car S.O.S Fuzz Townshend and Tim Shaw head to Norfolk to take on a 1962 TVR Grantura that has been off the road for nearly 50 years.

7.55 The Dog House Nine-year-old Rohan meets Patterdale terrier puppy Friday, but there are concerns that the hound may be a bit too enthusiastic for the youngster.

9.00 George Clarke's Building Home Keith and Kate are moving from their home in Glasgow to Dunoon on the Firth of Clyde, where they're turning a castle-like tower into their dream home.

10.00 24 Hours in A&E Double bill.

12.10am Emergency Helicopter Medics. Medical documentary. **1.15** George Clarke's Building Home **2.20** 24 Hours in A&E **3.25-3.55am** Food Unwrapped

Variations & S4C

WALES As BBC1 except: 1.35-1.45pm BBC Wales Today; Weather **6.30-7.00** BBC Wales Today; Weather **10.30-10.40pm** BBC Wales Today. Headlines; Weather

MERIDIAN As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm ITV News Meridian; Weather **6.00-6.30** ITV News Meridian; Weather **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News Meridian. Headlines; Weather

CENTRAL As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm ITV News Central; Weather **6.00-6.30** ITV News Central; Weather **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News Central. Headlines; Weather

ITV WALES As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm ITV News Cymru Wales; Weather **6.00-6.30** ITV News Cymru Wales; Weather **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News Cymru Wales; Weather

WEST As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm ITV News West Country; Weather **6.00-6.30** ITV News West Country; Weather **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News West Country; Weather

ANGLIA As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm ITV News Anglia; Weather **6.00-6.30** ITV News Anglia; Weather **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News Anglia The headlines; Weather

WESTCOUNTRY As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm ITV News West Country; Weather **6.00-6.30** ITV News West Country; Weather **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News West Country

S4C 6.00am Cyw **11.00** Dysgu Gyda Cyw **12.00noon** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **12.05pm** Cymry ar Gynfas **12.30** Heno **1.00** Cartrefi Cymru **1.30** Gwlad y Basg: Gwilym Bowen Rhys **2.00** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **2.05** Prynhawn Da **3.00** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **3.05** Priodas Pum Mil **4.00** Awr Fawr **5.00** Stwnsh **6.00** Cymry ar Gynfas. A painting of harpist, composer and performer Catrin Finch. **6.30** Rownd a Rownd. Ioan suspects Mair wants to end their relationship. **6.57** Newyddion S4C **7.00** Heno. Nightly magazine programme. **7.30** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **8.00** Pobol y Cwm. Anita enjoys a late-night party with a few fun visitors. Sioned is rushed to hospital. **8.25** Y Deis. With contestants from Ammanford, Rhydaman and Maldwyn. **8.55** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **9.00** Dal y Mellt. Celebrations are cut short when Jiffy disappears along with £500,000. **10.00** Llond Bol O Japan. Chef Chris Roberts explores Japan. **11.00-11.34pm** Rhys Patchell: Japan a'r Gic Olaf

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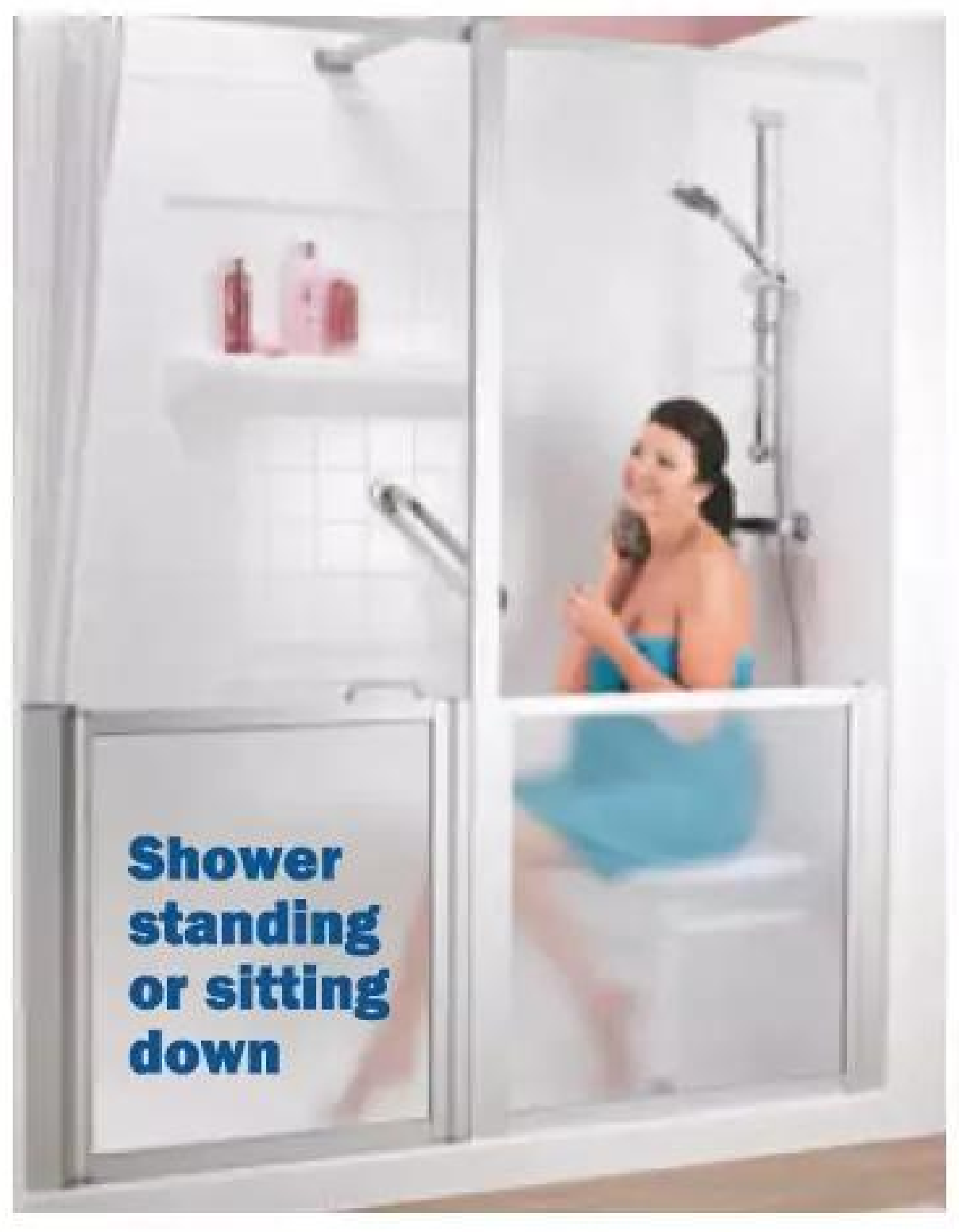

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Sport

SKY SPORTS MAIN EVENT

6.00am LIVE **Tennis** Action from the WTA and ATP Tours, with the United Cup Tennis tournament, WTA Brisbane Open, WTA Auckland Open, ATP Brisbane Open, and ATP Hong Kong Open.
3.30pm Sports Desk **4.00** The Transfer Show **4.30** Sports Desk **5.00** The Premier League Show
6.00 LIVE **Premier League** Manchester City v Brighton & Hove Albion (kick-off 7.30pm). The Premier League match from Etihad Stadium.
11.00 A League of Their Own. Comedy quiz.
12.00m't-6.00am LIVE **Tennis** WTA/ATP Tours.

SKY SPORTS CRICKET

6.00am Big Bash League **7.00** Best of J Anderson: 500th Wicket **7.10** Big Bash League
8.10 LIVE **Big Bash League** Perth Scorchers v Melbourne Renegades. Coverage of the T20 match which is taking place at Optus Stadium.
11.30 Best of England v South Africa **11.45** Best of ICC WT20. England v South Africa in 2016.
12.00noon SA20 **2.00** Big Bash League **3.00** Best of J Anderson: 500th Wicket **3.10** Best of Sky Cricket. Ben Stokes' superb century in 2017.
3.20 LIVE **SA20** Durban Super Giants v Pretoria Capitals. Coverage of the match taking place at Kingsmead Cricket Ground in Durban.
7.00 LIVE **Premier League** Newcastle United v Leeds United (kick-off 8.15pm). Coverage of the top-flight match at St James' Park.
11.00 Best of England v South Africa **11.15** Best of ICC WT20 **11.30** SA20 **12.30am** Big Bash League **1.30** SA20 **3.30** Big Bash League **4.30** Best of England v South Africa **4.45** Best of ICC WT20 **5.00-6.00am** SA20

SKY SPORTS FOOTBALL

6.00am EFL Highlights **7.00** EFL **8.00** EFL Highlights **9.00** EFL Greatest Games **10.00** Championship Retro. Aston Villa v Derby.
12.00noon EFL League One Goals **12.30** EFL League Two Goals **1.00** EFL Highlights **2.00** SPFL Highlights **2.15** EFL Highlights **3.45** SPFL Highlights **4.00** EFL League One Goals **4.30** EFL League Two Goals **5.00** EFL Highlights
6.00 LIVE **Premier League** Fulham v Chelsea (kick-off 7.30pm). Coverage of the top-flight match taking place at Craven Cottage, as the teams meet for the second time this season.
11.00 EFL Greatest Games **12.00m't** EFL Cup Retro **2.00** Craig Brown: My Scotland **2.30** Jimmy Glass: The Great Escape **3.00** EFL Greatest Games **4.00** Championship Season Review **5.00** Best Goals of the Carabao Cup 2020/21 **5.30-6.00am** EFL Trophy Football

SKY SPORTS GOLF

6.00am Nick Dougherty's Tee Time Tips **6.30** Ladies European Tour Golf **10.30** LPGA Tour Golf. Chevron Championship. **4.00pm** TGL
6.00 LIVE **Premier League** Crystal Palace v Aston Villa (kick-off 7.30pm). Coverage of the top-flight match at Selhurst Park, as the teams meet for the second time this season.
11.00 2025 PGA Tour Year in Review. A look back at the calendar year. **12.00m't** Ryder Cup – Official Films **1.00** Ladies European Tour Golf **4.00** The Open – Official Films **5.00-6.00am** Nick Dougherty's Tee Time Tips

TNT SPORTS 1

7.30am Premier League Stories **8.00** Classic Premier League **10.00** The Ashes **11.00** Fishing: On the Bank. Angling magazine.
12.00noon Serie A **1.00** Original Documentary
1.15 LIVE **International T20 Cricket** Sri Lanka v Pakistan. Coverage of the first Twenty20 in the three-match series, which takes place at Rangiri Dambulla International Stadium in Dambulla.
5.15 The Ashes **6.15** TNT Sports Reload
6.45 LIVE **Spanish Super Cup** Barcelona v Athletic Bilbao (kick-off 7.00pm). Coverage of the semi-final match at King Abdullah Sports City Stadium in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.
9.00 Dakar Rally Saudi Arabia **10.00** The Ashes
11.00pm-7.30am LIVE **The Ashes** Australia v England. Coverage of day five of the series-concluding fifth Test, at Sydney Cricket Ground.

TNT SPORTS 2

6.00am The Emirates FA Cup **2.00pm** The Ashes **3.00** Ski Jumping World Cup
4.30 LIVE **Men's Alpine Skiing World Cup** Run one of the slalom in the latest meeting of the season from Madonna di Campiglio, Italy.
6.15 The Gallagher PREM – The Wrap Up **6.30** Fishing: On the Bank. Angling magazine.
7.30 LIVE **Men's Alpine Skiing World Cup** Run two of the slalom in the latest meeting of the season from Madonna di Campiglio, Italy.
8.45 Tom Daley: 1.6 Seconds **10.30** International T20 Cricket Highlights **11.30** Premier League Legends **12.00m't** Men's Alpine Skiing World Cup **1.00** Spanish Super Cup **2.00** Serie A **3.00-6.00am** Adobe Women's FA Cup

BEST OF THE REST – LIVE SPORT

4.00am LIVE **NBA Basketball** Sacramento Kings v Dallas Mavericks (tip-off 4.00am). (Sky Sports +)
6.30 LIVE **Tennis** WTA/ATP Tours. (Sky Sports +)
6.00pm LIVE **Premier League** Coverage of all eight midweek kick-offs. (Sky Sports +)
7.00-11.00pm LIVE **Premier League** Brentford v Sunderland (kick-off 7.30pm). (Sky Sports NFL)
12.00m't-6.00am LIVE **Tennis** Further live action from the WTA and ATP Tours. (Sky Sports +)

Entertainment & Factual

ITV3 Freeview 10

6.00am Never the Twain **6.30** On the Buses **7.05** Classic Emmerdale **8.10** Classic Coronation Street **9.10** Inspector Morse **11.15** Heartbeat **1.20pm** Foyle's War **3.30** Classic Emmerdale **4.40** Classic Coronation Street **5.50** Heartbeat **8.00** Grace. Crime drama, starring John Simm and Richie Campbell. **10.00** Foyle's War **11.55** Trial & Retribution **2.00-2.30am** Unwind with ITV

ITV4 Freeview 26

6.00am The Big Match Revisited **8.05** Magnum, PI **9.05** Kojak **10.10** Boon **11.15** The Professionals **12.20pm** Robin of Sherwood **1.35** Magnum, PI **2.35** Kojak **3.45** Boon **4.50** The Professionals **5.55** Minder **7.00** Gallagher PREM Unleashed **8.00** Junk & Disorderly **9.00** FILM Dr No (1962/PG) James Bond spy thriller, starring Sean Connery. ★★★★★ **11.20** All Elite Wrestling: Collision **1.20am** Minder **2.15** Motorsport Mundial **2.40-3.00am** Unwind with ITV

5STAR Freeview 32

8.00am Bargain Brits on Benefits **10.00** 22 Kids & Counting **11.00** Traffic Cops **2.00pm** Police Interceptors **5.00** Call the Bailiffs: Time to Pay Up **6.00** Home and Away **7.00** Fare Dodgers: At War with the Law **8.00** Call the Bailiffs: Time to Pay Up **9.00** HMP Belmarsh: Maximum Security **11.05** Adults Only: Hurts So Good **12.05am** Adults Only: Sex Made Millionaires **1.05** Surgeons: A Matter of Life or Death **2.05** The Good Wife **3.35-4.00am** Car Pound Cops

REALLY Freeview 17

6.00am Fantasy Homes by the Sea **7.00** Cruise TV with LoveitBookit **8.00** Escape to the Country **9.00** Salvage Hunters **12.00noon** Antiques Road Trip **2.00** The Repair Shop **3.00** Celebrity Yorkshire Auction House **4.00** Long Lost Family **5.00** A Place in the Sun **6.00** Salvage Hunters **8.00** Antiques Road Trip **9.00** Fixer to Fabulous. Dave and Jenny renovate a tornado-ravaged house with thoughtful design. **10.00** Home Town **11.00** Help! My House Is Haunted **2.00am** Teleshopping **4.00-6.00am** Salvage Hunters

5ACTION Freeview 33

9.00am Traffic Cops **10.00** Police Interceptors **12.00noon** FILM The Last Challenge (1967/PG) ★★★ **2.00** FILM The Last Hunt (1956/PG) ★★★★ **4.00** The Motorway **5.00** Traffic Cops **6.00** Police Interceptors **8.00** Motorway Cops: Catching Britain's Speeders **9.00** Traffic Cops **10.00** Behind Bars: World's Toughest Prisons **11.00** Banged Up Abroad **12.00m't** World's Deadliest Weather: Caught on Camera **1.10** Ice Road Truckers **2.10-4.00am** Trucking Hell

SKY ARTS Freeview 36

6.00am La Traviata **8.05** The Joy of Painting **9.05** Tales of the Unexpected **10.00** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **11.00** The Directors **12.00noon** Discovering: Angela Bassett **1.00** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** Stories from the National Portrait Gallery **3.00** Battle of the Bagpipes **4.00** The Directors **5.00** Discovering: Jeff Goldblum **6.00** Tales of the Unexpected **7.00** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **8.00** Garbo: Where Did You Go?. A portrait of Hollywood icon Greta Garbo. **9.55** Michael Caine: The Becoming of a Hollywood Star **11.10** Sean Connery vs James Bond **12.25am** Katharine Hepburn: Call Me Kate **2.20** A Play in a Day **3.20** Dickens in Italy **4.20** Inside Art: Derek Jarman at Manchester Art Gallery **4.45** Inside Art: Glyn Philpot at Pallant House **5.10-6.00am** The Art of Architecture

Live Premier League
Sky Sports Main Event, 6pm
Rayan Cherki (left) and Manchester City are looking to pile the pressure on their rivals at the top. Tonight they take on Brighton & Hove Albion in one of eight live top-flight fixtures.

U&GOLD

7.05am The Green Green Grass **7.50** Ever Decreasing Circles **8.20** The Green Green Grass **9.00** Dad's Army **9.40** Are You Being Served? **10.20** Open All Hours **11.00** Keeping Up Appearances **11.40** Last of the Summer Wine **1.00pm** The Green Green Grass **1.35** Ever Decreasing Circles **2.15** Dad's Army **2.55** Are You Being Served? **3.30** Open All Hours **4.10** Ever Decreasing Circles **4.50** Last of the Summer Wine **6.00** Keeping Up Appearances **6.40** Open All Hours **7.20** Dad's Army **8.00** The Good Life **10.00** Not Going Out **10.40** The Good Life **12.40am** Not Going Out **1.20** The Good Life **3.15-4.00am** Keeping Up Appearances

U&YESTERDAY Freeview 27

6.10am Great Coastal Railway Journeys **6.35** Great British Railway Journeys **8.00** Bangers & Cash: Restoring Classics **10.00** Rise of the Nazis **11.00** True Evil: The Making of a Nazi **12.00noon** Antiques Roadshow **2.00** Bangers & Cash **4.00** Rise of the Nazis **5.00** True Evil: The Making of a Nazi **6.00** Antiques Roadshow **7.00** Great Canal Journeys **8.00** Abandoned Engineering. Exploring the nerve centre of a rescue mission in England. **9.00** NEW Mega Metro. An extension to get people into the centre of Sydney. **10.00** Bangers & Cash **11.00** Bangers & Cash: Restoring Classics **1.00am** Abandoned Engineering **2.00-3.00am** Rise of the Nazis

U&ALIBI

7.15am Murdoch Mysteries **9.00** Father Brown **10.00** The Mentalist **11.00** Hudson & Rex **12.00noon** Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries **1.00** Death in Paradise **2.00** Murdoch Mysteries **4.00** The Mentalist **5.00** Hudson & Rex **6.00** Father Brown **7.00** Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries **8.00** Death in Paradise **10.00** Father Brown **12.00m't** So Help Me Todd **1.00** Death in Paradise **2.00** Murdoch Mysteries **3.00-4.00am** Allegiance

SKY MAX

6.00am Hawaii Five-0 **8.00** The Flash **9.00** Stargate SG-1 **11.00** SEAL Team **12.00noon** The Flash **1.00** Hawaii Five-0 **3.00** S.W.A.T **4.00** NCIS: Los Angeles **5.00** SEAL Team **6.05** Stargate SG-1 **8.15** Never Mind the Buzzcocks **9.00** FILM SAS: Red Notice (2021/15) Action thriller, starring Sam Heughan and Ruby Rose. ★★★ **11.00** Fear the Walking Dead **12.00m't** Mr Bigstuff **1.00** The Force: Manchester **2.00** Brit Cops: Frontline Crime UK **3.00** S.W.A.T **4.00** NCIS: Los Angeles **5.00-6.00am** Highway Patrol

SKY ATLANTIC

6.00am Fish Town **7.00** The Guest Wing **8.00** Boardwalk Empire **10.10** The Sopranos **12.20pm** Game of Thrones **2.30** The Wire **4.40** Westworld **5.45** Deadwood. Brom Garrett confronts Al over the gold claim. **6.50** Game of Thrones **9.00** House of the Dragon **11.30** Deadwood **12.35am** All Her Fault **2.40** Game of Thrones **5.00-6.00am** Richard E Grant's Hotel Secrets

SKY WITNESS

6.00am UK Border Force **7.00** Nothing to Declare **8.00** Border Patrol **9.00** Stop, Search, Seize **10.00** Nothing to Declare UK **11.00** A1: Britain's Longest Road **12.00noon** FBI **1.00** The Rookie **2.00** Send in the Dogs **3.00** Caught on Dashcam **4.00** Nothing to Declare **7.00** Police 24/7 **8.00** Law & Order: Criminal Intent **9.00** Matlock **10.00** Doc **11.00** The Rookie **12.00m't** Law & Order: Criminal Intent **1.00** FBI **2.00** Law & Order: Organized Crime **3.00** Law & Order: Criminal Intent **4.00** Stop, Search, Seize **5.00-6.00am** Road Wars

SKY COMEDY

8.00am Will & Grace **9.00** Ballers **10.15** Sex and the City **11.25** Entourage **12.30pm** Will & Grace **1.30** Sex and the City **2.40** Ballers **3.50** And Just Like That **4.45** The Office (US) **5.45** Will & Grace **6.45** Community **7.45** Sex and the City **9.00** John Bishop 25 Tour: Live from Dublin **10.45** And Just Like That **11.40** Community **12.40am** Entourage **1.45** Ballers **3.00** Curb Your Enthusiasm **4.20-5.00am** Silicon Valley

DISCOVERY

6.00am How Do They Do It? **7.00** Junkyard Empire **9.00** Gold Rush **11.00** Bitchin' Rides: Road to the Ridler **1.00pm** Deadliest Catch **3.00** How Do They Do It? **5.00** Alaska: Homestead Rescue **7.00** Wheeler Dealers World Tour **9.00** Mud Madness. AJ and Bryce battle for first place. **10.00** Wild & Weird America **11.00** Expedition Unknown **12.00m't** Deadliest Catch **1.00** Mud Madness **2.00** Wild & Weird America **3.00** Gold Divers **4.00-5.00am** Moonshiners

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

8.00am Megafactories **9.00** Air Crash Investigation: Special Report **10.00** Seconds from Disaster **11.00** WW2: Hell Under the Sea **12.00noon** World War II: The Apocalypse **1.00** Air Crash Investigation **3.00** Hitler's Last Stand **4.00** Pacific War Megawrecks: Drain the Oceans **5.00** Ice Road Rescue **6.00** Nazi Megastructures **7.00** Air Crash Investigation **8.00** Strangest Things **9.00** UFO UK: New Evidence **10.00** Mysterious Islands **11.00** Air Crash Investigation **12.00m't** Car S.O.S **1.00** To Catch a Smuggler **2.30** Lords of War **3.20** Food Factory **4.10-5.00am** Exotic Animal ER

Radio

BBC RADIO 1

97.6-99.8MHz 6.58am Newsbeat **7.00** Radio 1 Breakfast with Greg James **10.30** Newsbeat **10.33** Rickie, Melvin and Charlie **12.45pm** Newsbeat **1.00** Nat and Vicky **3.30** Newsbeat **3.33** Going Home with Katie and Jerry **5.45** Newsbeat **6.00** Radio 1's New Music Show with Jack Saunders **8.00** Radio 1's Future Pop with Jodie Bryant **10.00** Radio 1's Power Down Playlist with Sian Eleri **11.00** Benji B **1.00am** Radio 1 Dance Presents **2.00** Radio 1 Anthems **4.00** Radio 1 Pop Anthems with Matt and Mollie **5.00-6.58am** Radio 1 Early Breakfast

BBC RADIO 2

88-91MHz 6.30am Sara Cox **9.30** Vernon Kay **12.00noon** Tina Daheley **2.00** Trevor Nelson **4.00** Mark Goodier **7.00** Edith Bowman **9.00** The Folk Show with Mark Radcliffe **10.00** The Good Groove **12.00m't** OJ Borg **3.00** Alternative Sounds of the 90s **4.00-6.30am** Owain Wyn Evans

BBC RADIO 3

90.2-92.4MHz 6.30am Breakfast **9.30** Essential Classics **1.00pm** Classical Live **3.00** Choral Evensong **4.00** Composer of the Week: Copland **5.00** In Tune **7.00** Classical Mixtape **7.30** Radio 3 in Concert **9.45** The Essay: Instrumental **10.00** Night Tracks **11.30** 'Round Midnight **12.30-6.30am** Through the Night

BBC RADIO 4

FM 92.4-94.6MHz 6.00am Today **9.00** More or Less: The Stats of the Nation **9.30** Two Nottingham Lads **10.00** Woman's Hour **11.00** File on 4 Investigates **11.40** This Week in History **11.45** Book of the Week: Overwhelmed **12.00noon** News **12.04** You and Yours **12.57** Weather **1.00** The World at One **1.45** Human Intelligence **2.00** The Archers **2.15** Drama: Faith, Hope and Glory **3.00** Money Box **3.30** Inside Universe 25 **4.00** Multitrack: I Am What I Ate **4.15** The Media Show **5.00** PM **5.57** Weather **6.00** News **6.30** Why in the Name of Pierre Novellie. The stand-up comic answers some of the world's biggest questions. **7.00** The Archers **7.15** Front Row **8.00** Archive on 4: The Socrates of San Francisco **9.00** The Smuggler **10.00** The World Tonight **10.45** Book at Bedtime: The Wedding Suit **11.00** David Eagle: See No Eagle **11.15** The Skewer **11.30** Today in Parliament **12.00m't** News **12.30** Book of the Week: Overwhelmed **12.48** Shipping Forecast **1.00** As BBC World Service **5.00** News Summary **5.04** Yesterday in Parliament **5.32** Weather **5.34** Shipping Forecast **5.43** Prayer for the Day **5.45-6.00am** Farming Today

CHOICE

Why In The Name Of Pierre Novellie
Radio 4, 6.30pm
The comedian and author answers some of the world's biggest questions in a new series. Among the subjects he will be covering are rude 12th-century poetry, talking in the cinema and why pasta is so good. However, he begins with looking at why people can't stop eating and George Orwell v the pizza.

BBC RADIO 5 LIVE

693/909kHz 6.00am 5 Live Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** Naga Munchetty **2.00pm** Matt Chorley **4.00** 5 Live Drive **7.00** 5 Live Sport **7.30** 5 Live Sport **10.30** Tony Livesey **1.00am** Dotun Adebayo **5.00-6.00am** Wake Up to Money

BBC RADIO WALES

FM: 94.6MHz 6.00am Radio Wales News Update **6.05** Wake Up with Radio Wales **6.31** Science Cafe **7.00** Radio Wales Breakfast **9.00** Bronwen Lewis **11.59** The Phone In **2.00pm** Behnaz Akhgar **5.00** Radio Wales Drive **6.30** Country Focus **7.00** Country with Bronwen Lewis **10.00** Eleri Sion **12.00m't** Relax with Radio Wales **1.00-6.00am** As Radio 5 Live

CLASSIC FM

100-102MHz 6.30am Classic FM Breakfast with Dan Walker **9.00** The Classic FM Hall of Fame Hour **10.00** Alexander Armstrong **1.00pm** Anne-Marie Minhall **4.00** Tim Lihoreau **7.00** Relaxing Evenings with Zeb Soanes **10.00** Calm Classics **1.00am** Bill Overton **4.00-6.30am** Early Breakfast

ABSOLUTE RADIO

DAB 6.00am Dave Berry **10.00** Leona Graham **1.00pm** Ben Burrell **4.00** Bush and Richie **7.00** Danielle Perry **10.00** Jay Lawrence **1.00-6.00am** Dan Noble

Movies

FILM4

11.00am Buchanan Rides Alone (1958/U) Western, starring Randolph Scott. ★★★
12.40pm The Frogmen (1951/U) Thriller, starring Richard Widmark. ★★★
2.35 Fantastic Voyage (1966/U) Sci-fi adventure, starring Raquel Welch. ★★★★
4.40 The Black Shield of Falworth (1954/U) Swashbuckling adventure, starringTony Curtis, Janet Leigh and David Farrar. ★★
6.40 Lion (2016/PG) Drama, starring Dev Patel and Nicole Kidman. ★★★★★
9.00 LA Confidential (1997/18) Three cops with different agendas investigate a murder case with links to corruption in the police force. Thriller, with Russell Crowe. ★★★★★
11.45 No Exit (2022/18) Thriller, with Havana Rose Liu and Danny Ramirez. ★★★★
1.35-3.35am Blackbird (2019/15) Drama, starring Susan Sarandon. ★★★

SKY CINEMA PREMIERE

6.25am Friendship (2024/15) Comedy, starring Paul Rudd and Kate Mara. ★★★★
8.10 Hallow Road (2025/15) Thriller, starring Rosamund Pike and Matthew Rhys. ★★★★
9.35 Karate Kid: Legends (2025/12) Drama sequel, starring Jackie Chan. ★★★
11.10 A Minecraft Movie (2025/PG) Fantasy adventure, starring Jason Momoa. ★★★★
12.55pm 28 Years Later (2025/15) See 8.00pm. ★★★★
2.50 Mission: Impossible – The Final Reckoning (2025/12) Action thriller, starring Tom Cruise and Hayley Atwell. ★★★★
5.40 Sinners (2025/15) Horror thriller, starring Michael B Jordan. ★★★★
8.00 28 Years Later (2025/15) Horror sequel, starring Jodie Comer. ★★★★
10.00 Safe House (2025/15) Thriller, starring Hannah John-Kamen. ★★★
11.40 Sinners (2025/15) See 5.40pm. ★★★★
2.00am The Phoenician Scheme (2025/15) Wes Anderson's comedy, starring Benicio Del Toro and Mia Threapleton. ★★★★
3.50 All the Devils Are Here (2025/15) Thriller, starring Eddie Marsan and Sam Claflin. ★★★
5.25-7.10am The Wedding Banquet (2025/15) Comedy, starring Bowen Yang. ★★★★

SKY CINEMA DRAMA

6.10pm Jackie (2016/15) Drama, with Natalie Portman and Peter Sarsgaard. ★★★★
8.00 Legends of the Fall (1994/15) The lives of three brothers and their father are thrown into turmoil when the youngest brings his fiancee home to live with them. Period drama, with Anthony Hopkins and Brad Pitt. ★★★★
10.25 American Sniper (2014/15) Drama, with Bradley Cooper and Sienna Miller. ★★★★
12.50am Golda (2023/12) Drama, with Helen Mirren and Zed Josef. ★★★
2.45 Chuck Chuck Baby (2024/15) Drama, with Louise Brealey. ★★★
4.40-6.50am Pawn Sacrifice (2014/12) Drama, with Tobey Maguire. ★★★★

SKY CINEMA FAMILY

4.00pm The Smurfs 2 (2013/U) Fantasy comedy sequel, starring Hank Azaria. ★★
6.00 E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial (1982/U) Sci-fi fantasy, starring Henry Thomas. ★★★★★
8.00 The Portable Door (2023/PG) Fantasy adventure, starring Christoph Waltz. ★★★★
10.00 Paul Blart: Mall Cop (2009/PG) Comedy, with Kevin James and Keir O'Donnell. ★★★
11.45 Monster Trucks (2016/PG) Fantasy adventure, starring Lucas Till. ★★
1.45am The Tiger Rising (2022/PG) Family drama, starring Dennis Quaid. ★★★
3.35 The Karate Kid Part III (1989/PG) Adventure, starring Ralph Macchio. ★★
5.35-7.25am The Next Karate Kid (1994/PG) Martial arts adventure, with Pat Morita. ★★★

TALKING PICTURES TV

5.20pm Do You Know This Voice? (1964/PG) Murder mystery, starring Dan Duryea. ★★★
6.50 Strange But True Lucid dreaming.
7.25 Scotland Yard Detective drama.
8.00 Van der Valk A serial killer strikes.
10.10 Love and Pain and the Whole Damn Thing (1973/PG) Romantic drama, starring Maggie Smith and Timothy Bottoms. ★★★
12.25am Let No Man Write My Epitaph (1960/18) Drama, starring Burl Ives. ★★★
2.35 Black Velvet Band Historical drama.
4.40-5.50am The Smart Aleck (1951/PG) Mystery, starring Peter Reynolds. ★★★

GREAT! MYSTERY

4.00pm Diagnosis Murder Detective drama.
5.00 Murder, She Wrote Jessica is kidnapped.
6.00 Sue Thomas: FBEye Drama.
7.00 Castle The duo investigate a DJ's death.
8.00 Unforgettable An urban explorer is killed.
9.00 Hailey Dean Mysteries Crime drama.
10.55 A Twist of the Knife (1993/PG) Hospital mystery, starring Dick Van Dyke. ★★
12.55am A Deadly Lullaby (2020/PG) Thriller, starring Katie Leclerc. ★★★
2.35 Flirting with Danger (2006/15) Thriller, starring James Thomas. ★★
4.00-5.25am Final Verdict (2009/12) Thriller, starring Erica Durance. ★★★

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Letters

Edited by GREG MORGAN

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Resist Starmer's sneaky back door bid to rejoin EU

IT APPEARS our beleaguered PM is plotting to rejoin the EU by the back door. This is a decision he must not be allowed to make. The UK voted to leave and if this kind of move is suggested it should be put to a referendum again ("Fears Starmer is plotting a 'full-blown Brexit betrayal'", January 5).

Unfortunately Keir Starmer knows that if this does happen he'll lose because of all the previous lies he and his gang have told.

The Government has got to be held to account and the electorate has to make sure Starmer is held to account. The sooner he and his associates are gone the better.

David Sallis,
Byfleet, Surrey

Ignore the wishes of 17.4m Brexit voters at your peril

IT IS worrying that Keir Starmer is looking at "multiple ways" for Britain to get closer to the EU, but then again it's no surprise, especially as he campaigned to remain in the EU during the 2016 referendum and has spent subsequent years trying to overturn the vote of 17.4 million people.

This is so typical of Starmer, whose priority is first and foremost that of a human rights lawyer who wants to cosy up to the EU at all costs and doesn't appear to have any regard for democracy if it doesn't meet his vision. Thank goodness for Reform UK, which is ready to hold him to account.

Julie Foster,
Burnley, Lancs

Axe useless MPs if we are dragged back to Brussels

THE Government and some other MPs have never liked the people getting their way over the Brexit referendum and have been dragging their feet in implementing a proper Brexit ever since.

If they drag us back into the oppressive EU, why would we still need MPs and an army of civil servants as all they will do is rubber stamp decisions made in Brussels and Luxembourg?

Makes you wonder why we would be paying for MPs and the Civil Service as we then would also be paying taxes for the expensive Eurocrats.

David Tyler,
Harlow, Essex

Boris delivered freedom that we've surrendered

KEIR Starmer cares little if the economy is in tatters, or how many OAPs die of the cold, for he is a man with a mission and that mission is to defy the will of the people and return us to the EU.

This may prove easier than it appears, as he knows much of his party has similar beliefs and MPs from other parties who hold the same views would support him.

Perhaps, in future when we reflect, we'll think of Boris Johnson as the man who delivered Brexit and Starmer as the one who took it away.

Dilwyn Williams,
Llandrindod Wells, Powys

LETTER OF THE DAY

DICTATOR: United States President Donald Trump

PM Keir must stand up to bully Trump

OUR spineless PM's refusal to condemn the US dictator over his attack on Venezuela only goes to underline what we have known for a long time – he is as much Donald Trump's poodle as Trump is Vladimir Putin's ("Maduro: I'm innocent... president of my country", January 6).

We should be standing shoulder to shoulder with Europe, Canada and the many other countries that have called Trump out.

The country that stood alone for two years against the evil of Nazism is shamed by Keir Starmer's lack of gumption. The visit to the US by the King and Prince William this year should be cancelled until that country shows respect for law and democracy.

Bob Readman,
Sevenoaks, Kent

Free speech is history in the woke Salvation Army

JUST one more nail in the coffin of free speech in the UK ("Salvation Army worker who said refugees should be sent back on a boat was 'fairly' sacked", January 5).

I agree with Charles Markie – tag, detain and deport any criminal illegal migrants by boat.

As for the Sally Army, which I have respected and donated to for many years, as recently as last month for Christmas – I shall give no more. I shall now give to Crisis, St Mungo's or Centrepoint.

People should be allowed their opinion and the woke members of our broken country should get used to it because we're not going away.

Brett Trafford,
Vyne Park, Hants

Nanny state's junk food ad ban very hard to swallow

("JUNK food ad ban gets under way", January 5) Why? We haven't stopped car adverts because people die on the roads, or banned supermarkets from selling crisps and hot dogs.

This ban, between 5.30am and 9pm and online at any time, is quite wrong. Diet is a personal matter and for individuals to take responsibility. It isn't, for example, McDonald's' fault if people are overweight or obese.

People will never make the best choices if they rely on third parties to decide for them. We have never been better informed about nutrition, in addition to which the traffic light system on food labelling is an invaluable guide.

Garry Dunnings,
Louth, Lincs

Sorry JJ, you've got it wrong on two big issues

I USUALLY agree with most things JJ Anisiobi says, but I totally disagree on two things that he wrote recently.

Firstly, his A&E comment. While I generally agree with his view, I disagree with the suggestion of calling 111. I've called them on three occasions and they've been worse than useless ("A&E is not some clinic for people with a headache", January 5).

The last time, I was having chest pains but couldn't get through. I phoned 999 and was in hospital having a stent fitted for a serious heart attack within 20 minutes.

Secondly, his comment on Zack Polanski ("Green Party leader gives hope to those fed up with modern politics", January 5). Sorry JJ, if you think he's somebody to take seriously then you really need to think again

Steve Collard,
Beckenham, Gtr London

Call up an army of traffic wardens to fight Russians

THE UK now has more traffic enforcement officers than members of the army – 82,000 compared to approximately 78,000.

Don't panic though, as someone said more than once, when the Russian tanks are parked in Whitehall we can deploy the traffic officers to issue fixed penalty notices, assuming they have sufficient, to those drivers silly enough to ignore the parking regulations, while not forgetting Ulez. That'll teach 'em – the Russians don't like it up 'em!

Christopher Humphreys,
Ewloe, Flint

Reform wouldn't touch Tories with a bargepole

THANK heavens ("Kemi throws out deal with Reform, accusing Farage of 'saying whatever to whoever' to get power", January 6).

Right back at you, Kemi. I don't think Reform UK would want to be tainted with past Tory failures.

John Howard,
Hemel Hempstead, Herts

DEAL ME OUT OF MULHERN'S ANNOYING BOX OF TRICKS

I WONDER if there is any more stupid programme on TV than Deal Or No Deal.

I think the concept is quite good but Stephen Mulhern has turned it into a (poor) pantomime.

Mulhern treats it as if people in the show actually have control over the numbers in their box, when he knows full well they have no idea.

His attitude seems to transfer to the competitors.

It lasts for an hour but could easily be completed in around half that time.

Geoff Manning,
Lower Kingswood, Surrey

DEAL OR NO DEAL
8
?

TODAY: Wednesday January 7, 2026

ON THIS DAY

DAILY EXPRESS
THE VOICE OF BRITAIN

Maggie's men put the boot in

Heseltine hits back as 'copter row rages

Bouncing baby Sam survives 70m.p.h. M-way crash

Dying Donna is given heart of boy she loved

40 years ago (1986)

We revealed the "disarray" of Margaret Thatcher's Government over the Westland crisis.

Relations between the PM and Defence Secretary Michael Heseltine were at "sub zero" amid a row over the future of the helicopter firm, which was the subject of a rescue bid.

Mrs Thatcher backed a deal with a US firm but Heseltine favoured a consortium of European companies.

98 years ago (1928)

Fourteen people died and thousands were made homeless when the Thames flooded in central London.

Disaster occurred when heavy snow was followed by a sudden thaw and heavy rain which combined with a high spring tide and a storm surge, caused by a cyclone in the North Sea.

81 years ago (1945)

Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery held a press conference during which he controversially claimed most of the credit for victory in the Battle Of The Bulge.

His comments caused consternation among US commanders, including the Supreme Allied Commander Eisenhower and General Bradley – and Monty was forced to backtrack.

BIRTHDAYS

F1 driver **Lewis Hamilton** is 41. He has won seven World Drivers' Championship titles. Con Air actor **Nicolas Cage** is 62. He is a huge Elvis fan. Fashion designer **Christian Louboutin** is 63. His shoes have a trademark red sole. I Need A Dollar singer **Aloe Blacc** is 47. He also sings in Spanish.

TODAY'S GIGGLE

What's invisible and makes a clucking noise around the house? A poultrygeist.

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Mon 11 **Embark *Queen Mary 2* and depart Southampton**

Fri 15 **Funchal, Madeira**

Fri 22 **Basseterre, St. Kitts**

Sun 24 - Mon 25 **Bridgetown, Barbados** (overnight)
A town steeped in history, surrounded by an abundance of natural beauty with plenty to see and do, Bridgetown is the perfect location. Sitting on the southwestern side of the island of Barbados, Bridgetown is a lively and bustling gateway to the wider treasures the island holds. From sun-kissed beaches, underground caverns, and glass-like lagoons to emerald jungles and vast historic plantations, Barbados is a paradise just waiting to be explored

Bridgetown, Barbados

Wed 27 **Castries, St. Lucia**
Tucked on the northwest coast of St. Lucia is its capital, Castries. With a pretty harbour that faces out to the Caribbean Sea, Castries is an idyllic place to explore. With its colonial past, Castries is home to some important, historical landmarks and rewarding lookout points

Pitons, St. Lucia

Thu 28 **St. George's, Grenada**

Fri 29 **Roseau, Dominica**

Sat 30 **English Harbour, Antigua**
On the south coast of the island of Antigua is English Harbour, a small settlement that has a big history. When in English Harbour, there are several landmarks and sights you could seek out to get to know the island and its people, such as Nelson's Dockyard and Shirley Heights Lookout

English Harbour, Antigua

FEBRUARY 2027

Mon 1 **Amber Cove, Dominican Republic**

Wed 3 **Philipsburg, St. Maarten**
The tiny island of St. Maarten is something really special. Time spent here will leave you full of memories of turquoise waters, colourful buildings, palm-fringed beaches and more. St. Maarten is certainly unique, with the southern part being Dutch and the northern part being French

Philipsburg, St. Maarten

Wed 10 **Santa Cruz, Tenerife**

Sun 14 **Arrive in Southampton**

Dates not mentioned are spent relaxing at sea

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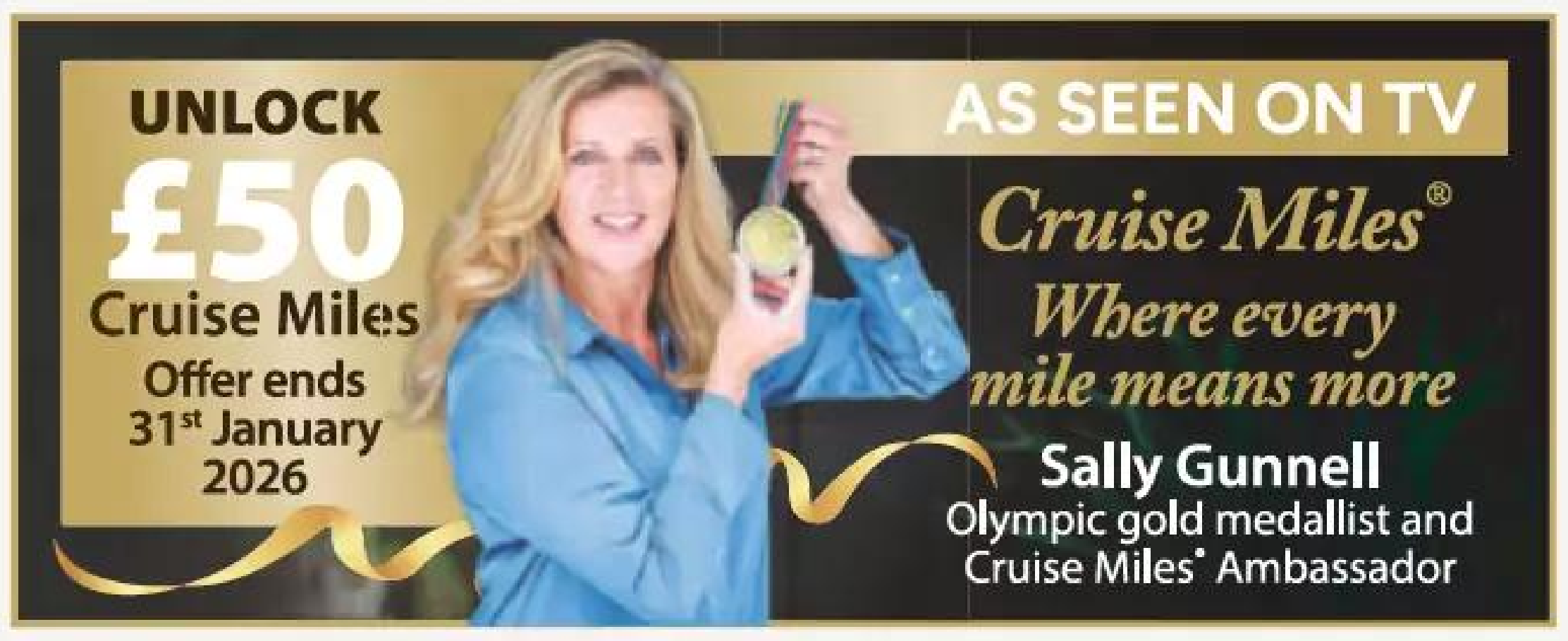
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Born on this day, 1970

ARIES MARCH 21-APRIL 20

With your abundance of ideas and the many directions that your mind seems to be going in, there is a chance of you being slightly clumsy and accident-prone. For this reason, do your best not to get distracted and stay focused around the house. Plans could be changed suddenly this evening, when just about anything can occur.

For more call **0905 789 4171**
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TAURUS APRIL 21-MAY 21

Your generosity seems to know no bounds especially when it comes to your family and relatives living some distance away. If you can help them in any way, you will certainly do so even if this means taking a spontaneous trip to be with them. As it is, you will enjoy the change of company and some fresh scenery.

For more call **0905 789 4172**
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GEMINI MAY 22-JUNE 21

What happens when you hurry about, attempting to tackle several tasks simultaneously? You end up making silly errors, and some of the tasks will need to be redone. So, rather than stressing over everything on your plate, focus on one task at a time. Slow down and you will get results more quickly. Remember your achievements.

For more call **0905 789 4173**
(80p/min + network access charge)

CANCER JUNE 22-JULY 23

There's a tense vibe that is surrounding you right now. You can't seem to say or do anything right when you are with a close friend or partner. Housemates seem moody but before you point fingers at anyone else, consider your own attitude. It might just be six of one and half a dozen of the other. Life will get calmer for everyone soon.

For more call **0905 789 4174**
(80p/min + network access charge)

LEO JULY 24-AUG 23

Your health may not be as great as it could be. You seem to be catching whatever is circulating these days, so take care and steer clear of crowded areas and get plenty of rest to build up your immunity. In the evening, a neighbour might ask for your advice on a matter you are trying to stay out of. Don't let them draw you into it.

For more call **0905 789 4175**
(80p/min + network access charge)

VIRGO AUG 24-SEPT 23

There is some disagreement in a personal or business partnership. A newcomer will get involved. This is someone who comes highly recommended by a friend and they will step in with an objective perspective as well. This will help to resolve the conflict at last. Someone has been allowing pride to obstruct a potential compromise.

For more call **0905 789 4176**
(80p/min + network access charge)

LIBRA SEPT 24-OCT 23

Changes within the family provide food for thought. If this relates to a relative's relationship with someone else, tread lightly and choose your words with care. Even if you disapprove of this union, it would be best to refrain from getting involved. The more objections they hear, the more determined they will be to follow their own inclinations.

For more call **0905 789 4177**
(80p/min + network access charge)

SCORPIO OCT 24-NOV 22

When you are going to a test or an interview, remember to take a deep breath, stay calm, and trust in your ability to succeed. Prepare beforehand for potential questions that might be asked so that you won't be caught off guard. But have a calm faith in yourself. If you're single, expect your love life to flourish in the evening.

For more call **0905 789 4178**
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SAGITTARIUS NOV 23-DEC 21

Discussions, whether online or in-person, will be characterised by mutual understanding. People are relaxed with you and even those who have been aloof in the past seem more approachable now. Happily, the general feeling, both in the home, workplace or a study environment, is that of harmony and togetherness.

For more call **0905 789 4179**
(80p/min + network access charge)

CAPRICORN DEC 22-JAN 20

Friends are important to you so when someone begins to behave oddly and you sense that you may have upset them, it's natural for you to feel confused and anxious too. Encourage others to share their thoughts, as this is the only way you will be able to address their concerns. There is no point overthinking and stewing.

For more call **0905 789 4180**
(80p/min + network access charge)

AQUARIUS JAN 21-FEB 19

Your financial situation seems more than a little uncertain at the moment. For instance, you could either gain in some way or experience a monetary loss. Likewise, there is a chance of losing certain items due to a theft or sudden misfortunes. Since the situation could develop positively or negatively, remember to stay alert.

For more call **0905 789 4181**
(80p/min + network access charge)

PISCES FEB 20-MARCH 20

Change isn't necessarily negative, even if you're not too keen on ideas being talked about today. Why not hold off from sharing your critical thoughts? You might be pleasantly surprised by how smoothly things progress once new routines are established. Sometimes it can be beneficial to let other people lead the way.

For more call **0905 789 4182**
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NUTWOOD TALES

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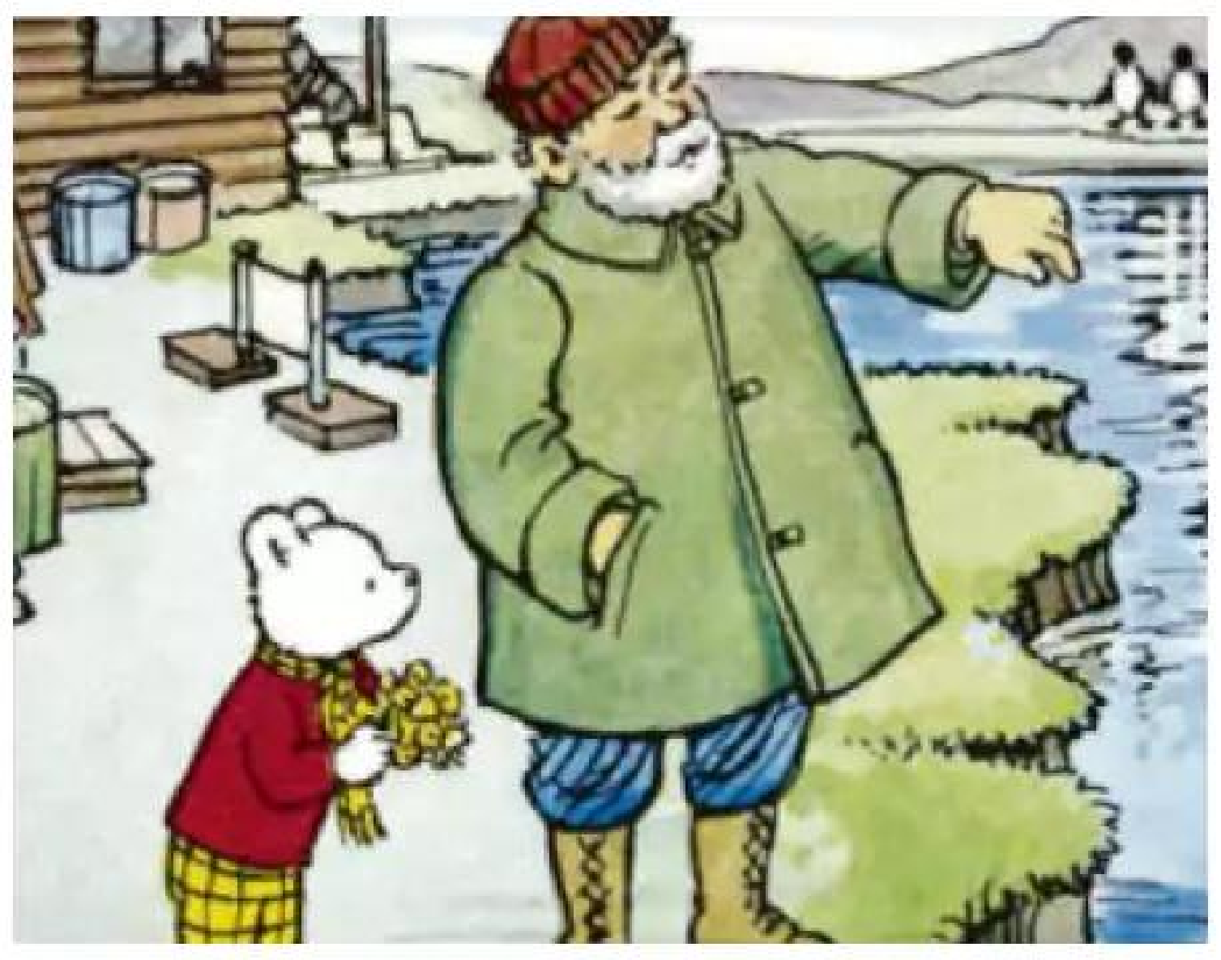
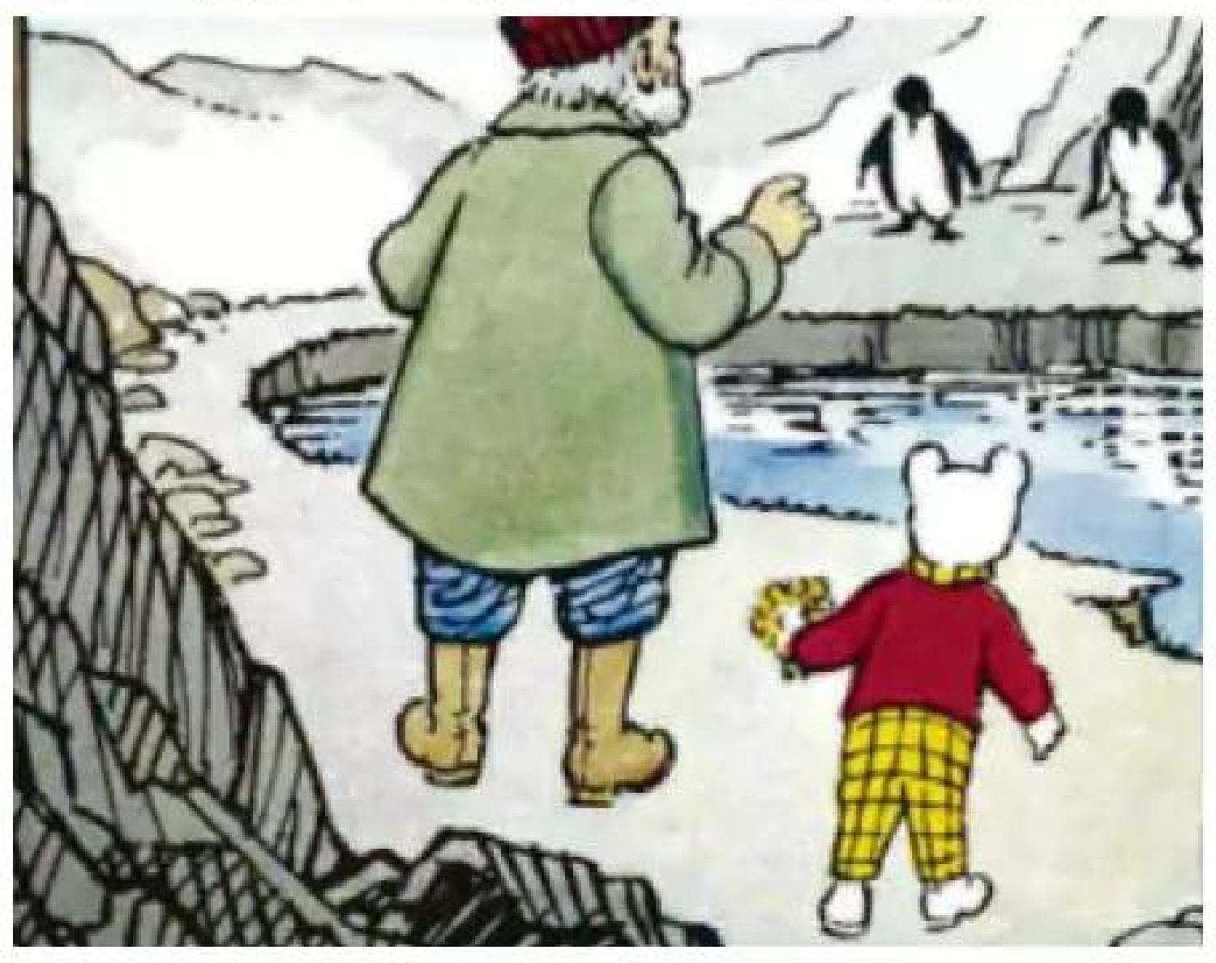
RUPERT AND THE PENGUINS No.4



"I need fresh water, clear and cool.
To make my penguins this new pool."

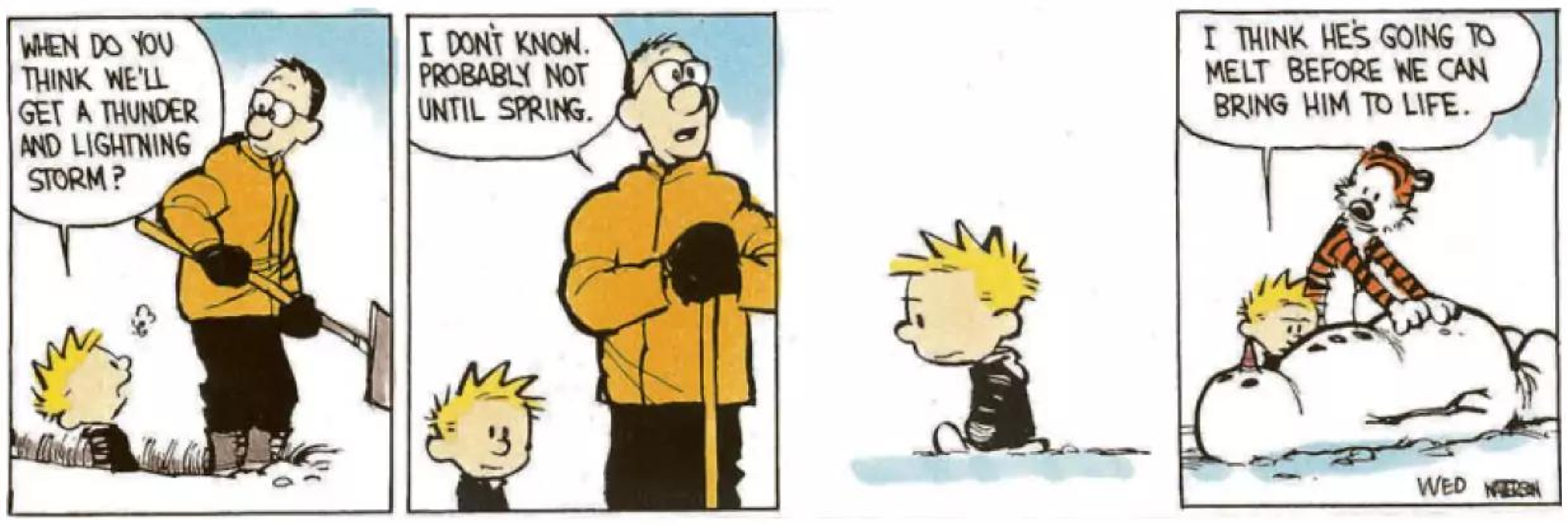
Two penguins from a cave draw near.
"Strange, the King Penguin won't appear."



Captain Chubb explains he is making a play pool for the penguins he brought back from his latest voyage. "Penguins!" exclaims Rupert. "You must have travelled a long way." The Captain nods. "Come and see them, he invites and leads Rupert towards two penguins which have emerged from a cave. "The King Penguin's in there," the Captain says. "But for some reason he will not come out." Just then the two penguins screech angrily.

CALVIN AND HOBBES

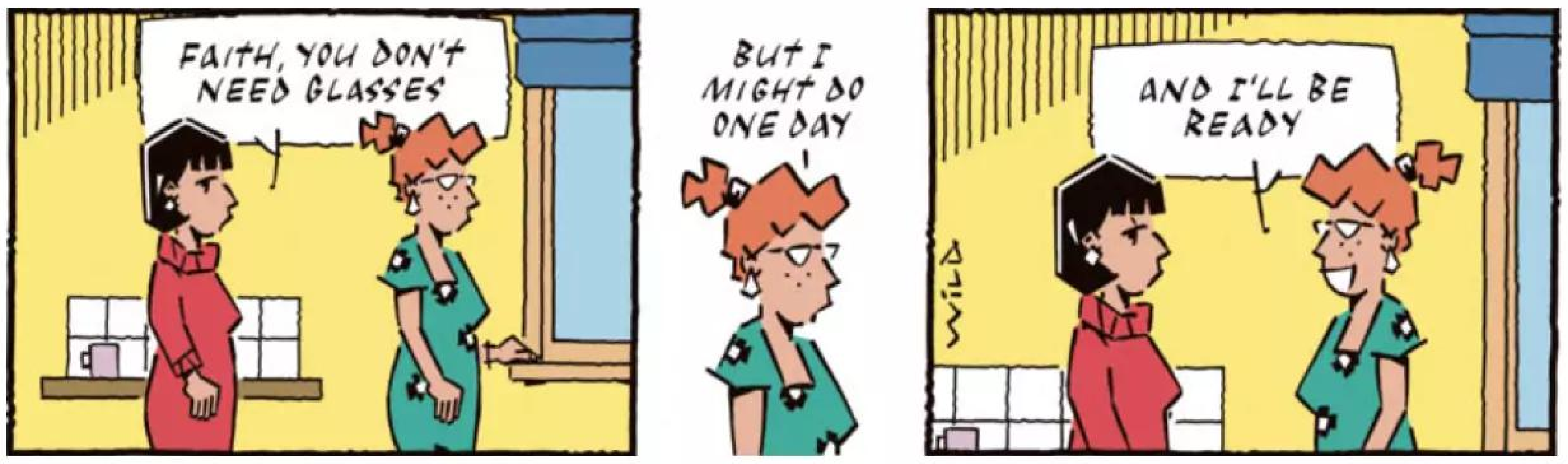
BILL WATTERSON



WHEN DO YOU THINK WE'LL GET A THUNDER AND LIGHTNING STORM?
I DON'T KNOW. PROBABLY NOT UNTIL SPRING.
I THINK HE'S GOING TO MELT BEFORE WE CAN BRING HIM TO LIFE.
WED WATTERSON

FAITH, HOPE AND SUE

LISA WILD



FAITH, YOU DON'T NEED GLASSES
BUT I MIGHT DO ONE DAY
AND I'LL BE READY
WILD

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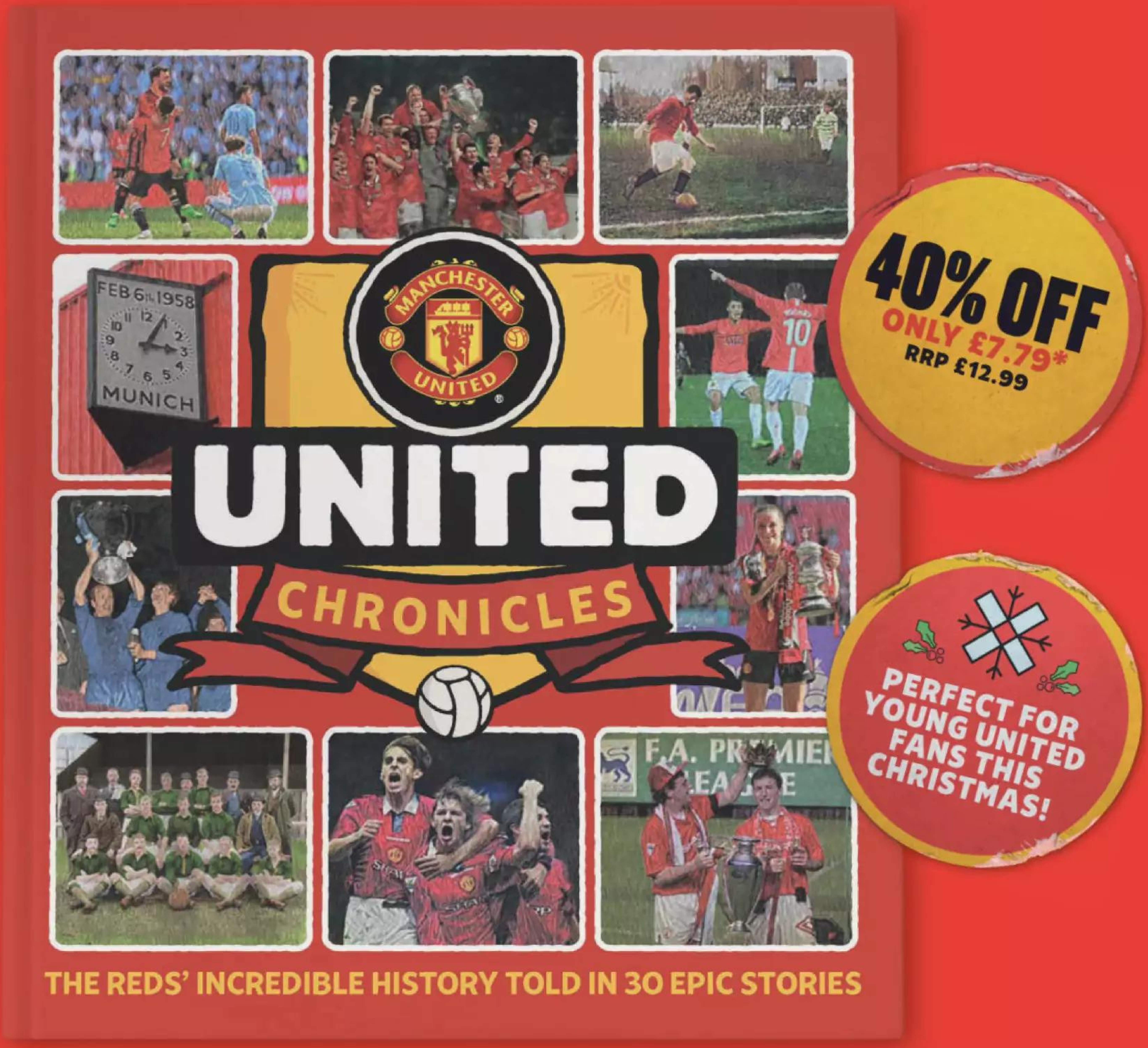
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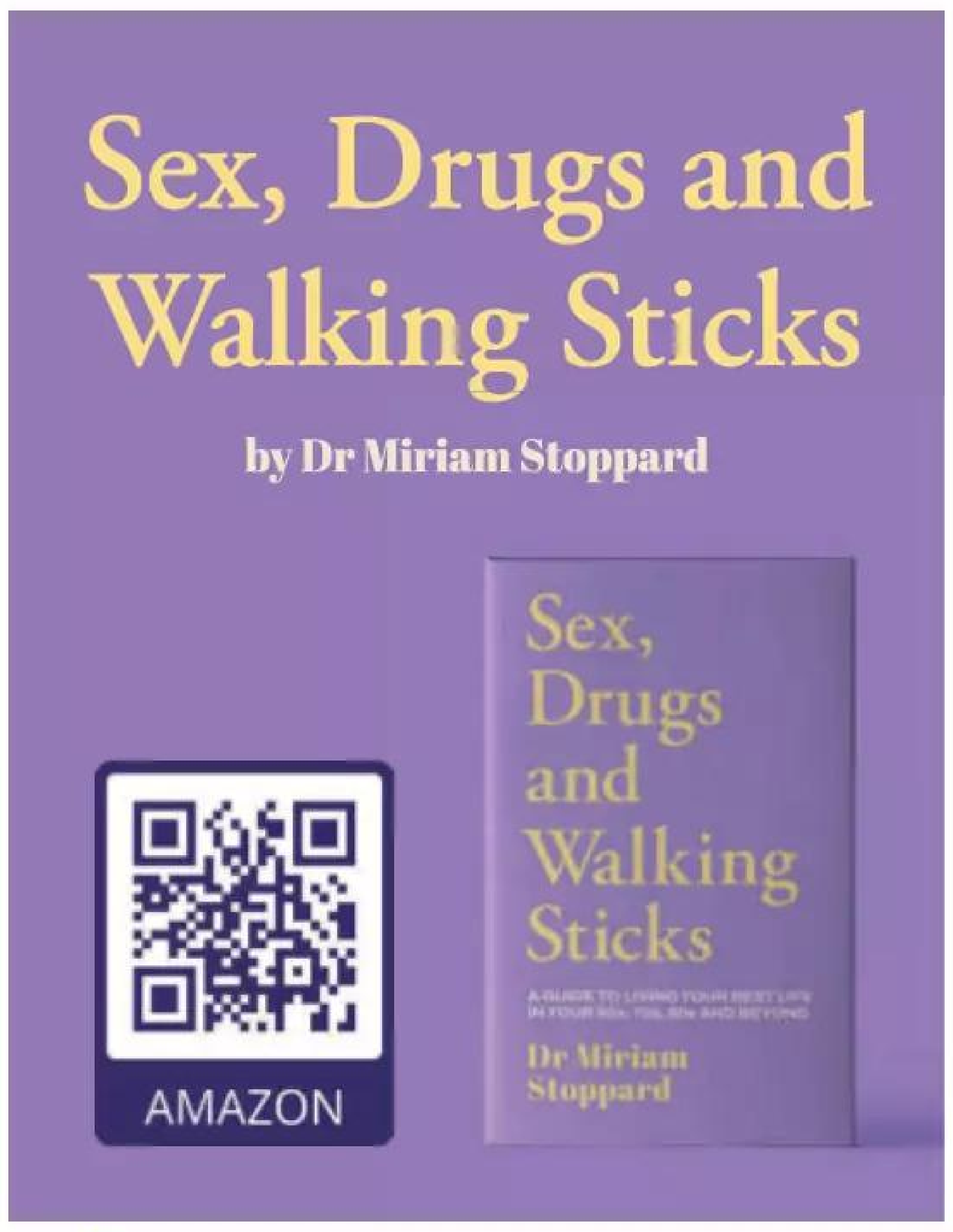
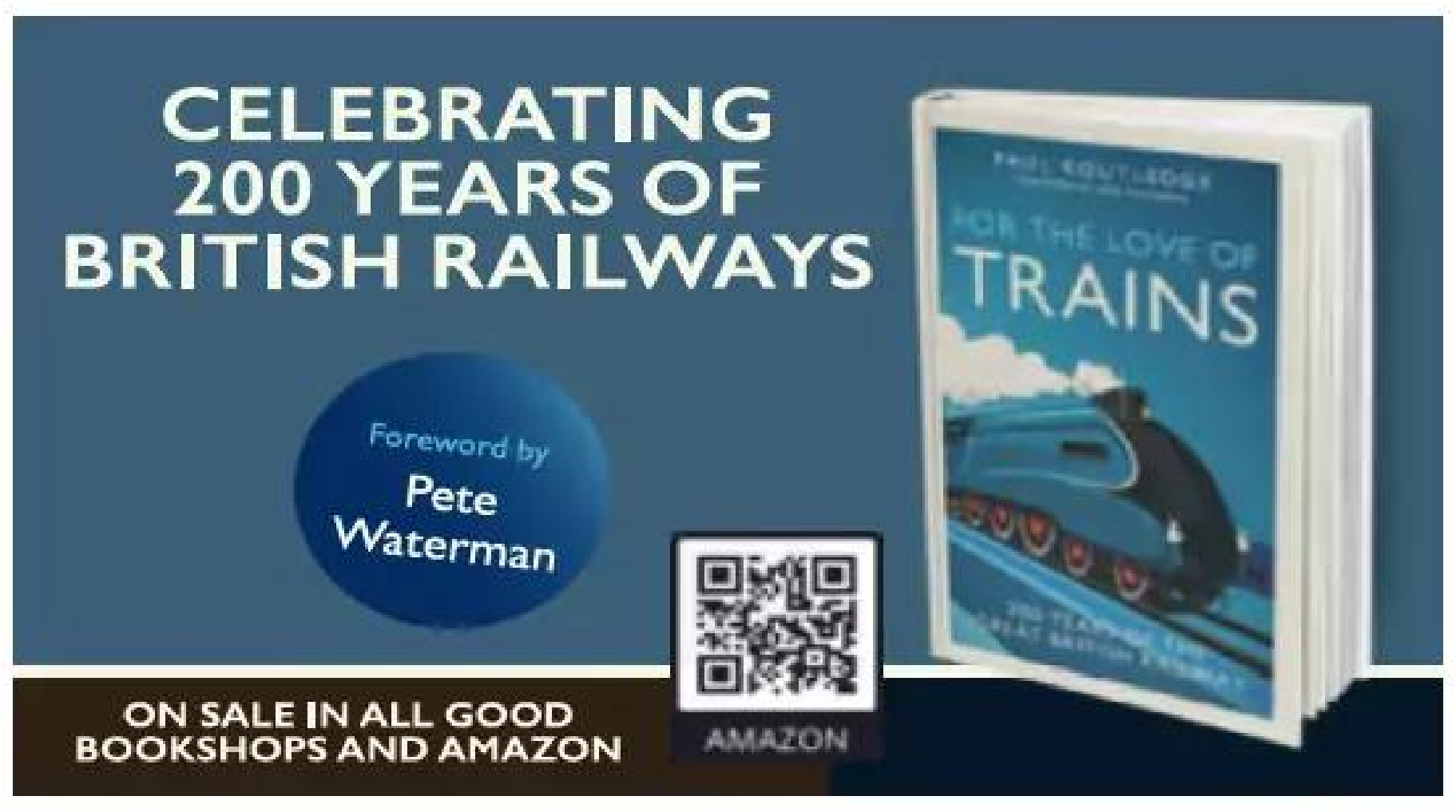

Sex, Drugs and Walking Sticks
by Dr Miriam Stoppard
AMAZON
Sex, Drugs and Walking Sticks
Dr Miriam Stoppard

ALCOHOL & LICENSING

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A PREMISES LICENCE UNDER THE LICENSING ACT 2003

Madfabulous Hotels Limited has applied to Cotswold District Council for a premises licence for **HYLL Hotel**, Charingworth, Chipping Camden, Gloucestershire GL55 6NS as follows: To permit the sale of alcohol, recorded and live music between the hours of 10:00 and 01:00 daily. To permit the provision of late-night refreshment between the hours of 23:00 until 01:00 daily. Opening hours are to be 24/7, with 24/7 provisions for sale of alcohol and late-night refreshment for hotel residents and their Bonafide guests. The full application can be inspected by contacting the Licensing Section (see below). A summary of the application can be viewed on www.cotswold.gov.uk. Representations must be made IN WRITING between 20 December 2025 and 16 January 2026 Any representations made must relate to one of the 4 Licensing Objectives: prevention of crime and disorder, public safety; prevention of public nuisance; and protection of children from harm. All representations are made public. Please write to the address below; Business Support - Licensing, Environmental & Regulatory Services, Cotswold District Council, Trinity Road, Cirencester, Glos., GL7 1PX Tel: 01993 861000 Email: ers@cotswold.gov.uk It is an offence to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with this application. To do so could result in an unlimited fine.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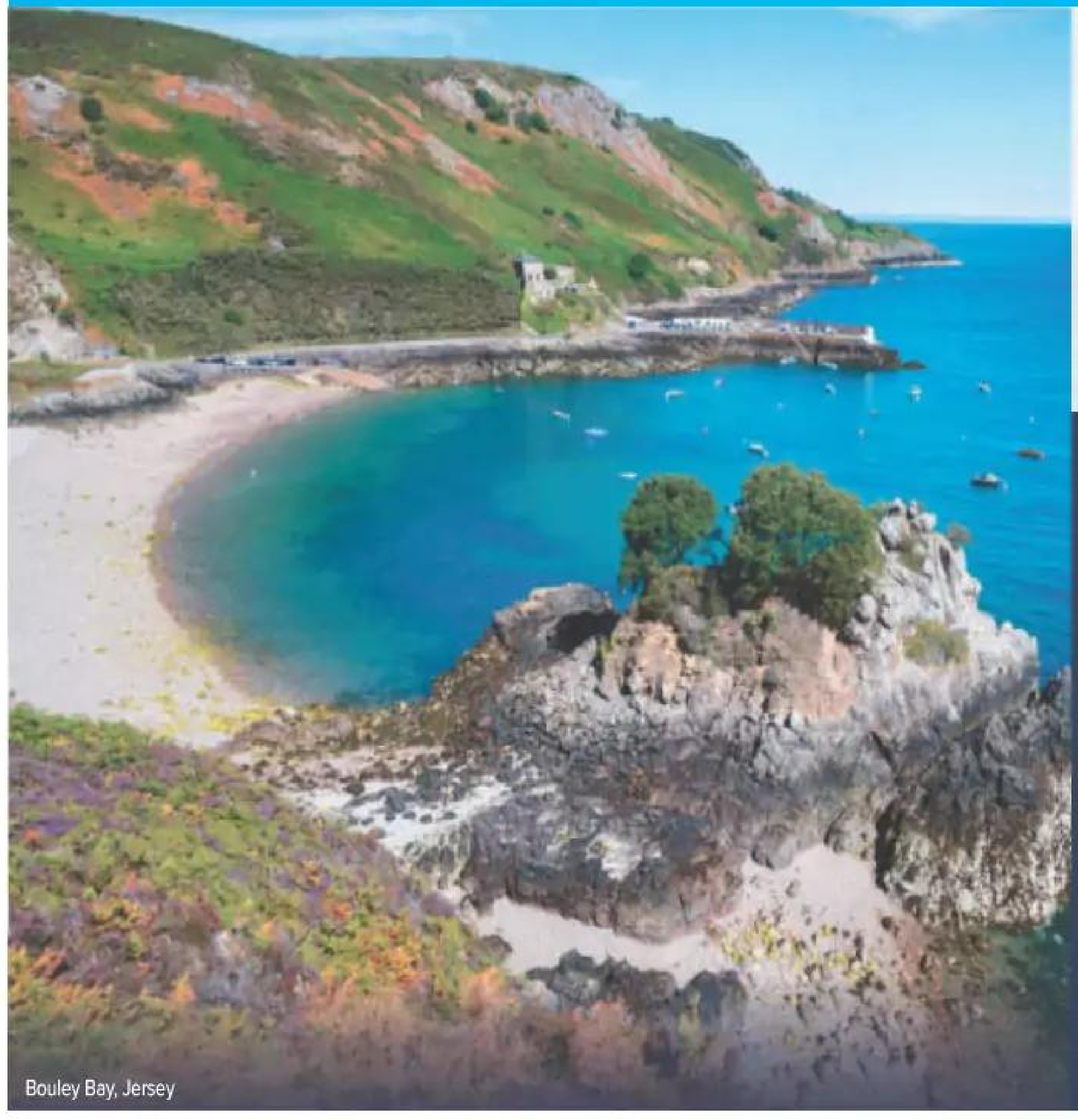
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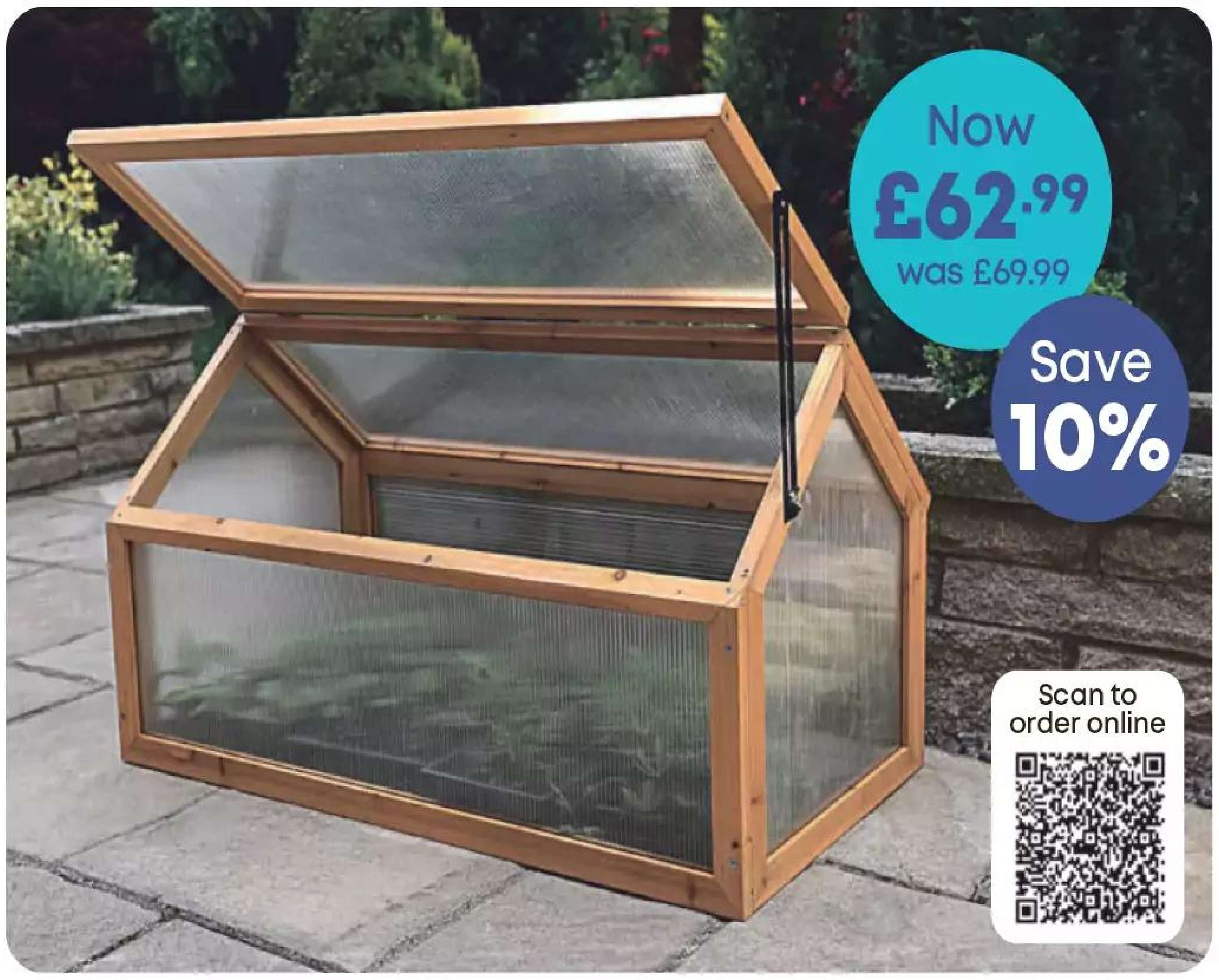
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Extend your growing season and keep delicate plants safe with this practical wooden cold frame. It is designed to protect young seedlings, vegetables and flower beds from cold, wet conditions and frost.

The transparent roof allows sunlight to warm plants without heat escaping, creating a steady growing environment. With a hinged lid for easy access, caring for plants is simple.

Made from durable fir wood with polycarbonate panels, this cold frame is a dependable and attractive feature for any garden.

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- ✓ Made from: fir wood, polycarbonate panels
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AT A GLANCE

STOCK MARKET			
FTSE 100	10122.7	▲	+118.2
FTSE 250	22791.9	▲	+198.0
FTSE ALL SHARE	5450.0	▲	+61.5
Shares Traded	9581.2 million		

POPULAR SHARES ON THE RISE		
AstraZeneca	14038	+654
Aviva	690	+3
BAE Systems	1881½	+30½
Barclays	488½	+1¾
BT Group	181¾	+½
Centrica	176¾	+4½
Convatec Group	244¼	+3½
GSK	1899½	+79
Haleon	376½	+4¼
HSBC Holdings	1217½	+10¼
Int Consolidated Airlines	437	+12
Lloyds Banking Group	100¼	+¼
Marks & Spencer Group	327½	+5
National Grid	1172	+22
Rolls-Royce Holdings	1244½	+13
Saga	408	+24½
Sainsbury (J)	332½	+4½
Shell	2747	+9
Tesco	455	+12½
Unilever	4744	+45
Vodafone Group	100½	+¾
Whitbread	2545	+45

POPULAR SHARES ON THE SLIDE		
Abrdn	207½	-4½
BP	431¾	-3½
NatWest Group	660½	-5

WORLD MARKETS			
WALL STREET	49462.1	▲	+484.9
TOKYO	52518.1	▲	+685.3
HONG KONG	26710.4	▲	+363.2
GERMANY	24892.2	▲	+23.5
FRANCE	8237.4	▲	+25.9

STERLING VALUE			
Dollar	1.350	▼	-0.004
Yen	211.657	▼	-0.126
Euro	1.155	▼	-0.001

DOLLAR VALUE			
Dollar/Yen	156.738	▲	+0.3352
Dollar/Euro	0.855	▲	+0.0019

COMMODITIES		
GOLD($)	▲	4489.14
KRUGERRAND(£)	▲	3324.47
SILVER(pence)	▲	5987.68
BRENT CRUDE($)	▼	61.19

OTHER INDICATORS	
Base rate	3.75%
Halifax mortgage rate	5.95%
Retail Price Index	+3.8% (CPI +3.2%)
House price Index	+1.7%
Unemployment	1,832,000

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TOURIST'S POUND

Australia	1.96 dollar
Canada	1.81 dollar
China	8.87 renminbi
Czech Rep.	26.23 koruna
Denmark	8.19 krone
Eurozone	1.14 euro
Hong Kong	9.92 dollar
Hungary	415.92 forint
Israel	4.01 shekel
Japan	203.37 yen
Jordan	0.90 dinar
Mexico	22.93 peso
New Zealand	2.26 dollar
Norway	13.09 krone
Poland	4.63 zloty
Saudi Arabia	4.84 riyal
South Africa	21.24 rand
Sweden	11.81 krona
Switzerland	1.04 franc
Thailand	40.62 baht
Turkey	54.24 lira
United States	1.33 dollar

New listings fuel hopes of Stock Exchange comeback

By **MAISIE GRICE**

THE beleaguered stock exchange rallied at the end of 2025 with 11 companies listing for the first time and expectations of a revival this year.

The initial public offerings (IPOs) in London in the final quarter raised £1.9bn, bringing the total number of listings for the year to 23.

Firms had turned backs on the LSE

The newcomers – following an exodus of firms – included tinned tuna giant Princes, and The Beauty Tech Group. The nine listings on the main market and 12 on AIM raised roughly £2.1bn over the course of 2025, a 170% year on year increase from £777.7m.

But despite the sharp rise in revenue, IPO activity remained muted other than the final quarter jump.

Scott McCubbin, IPO expert at consultants EY-Parthenon UK, said: "After a turbulent start to 2025, marked by heightened geopolitical uncertainty and volatile market reactions to the introduction of trade tariffs, IPO activity gathered momentum towards the end of the year.

"The final quarter saw a notable acceleration in listings as companies moved ahead with postponed flotation plans, encouraged by stabilising market conditions and improving investor sentiment." Analysts predict London's IPO pipeline will get busier off the back of reforms to the UK's listing regime introduced in the Budget. Chancellor Rachel announced a stamp duty exemption on shares of newly listed companies in a bid to get more companies to list in London and encourage more Brits to invest domestically.

The City hopes it will revitalise the ailing market and attract listings lost to overseas markets with more favourable conditions, in particular New York. LSE deputy chief executive Charlie Walker hailed it "the first sort of meaningful change" in a long time.

But concerns about geopolitical tensions and inflation are still tempering talk of deals. And analysts have noted investors taking fewer risks.

Mr McCubbin said: "Businesses considering an IPO should prioritise careful market timing, demonstrate operational resilience and present a compelling equity story to attract investor interest."

Globally, 1,293 companies went public, raising £126.8bn, with India and China leading the boom.

NEVILLE SCORES WITH GLOBAL MEDIA DEAL

STICK TO FOOTBALL

GARY Neville will challenge Gary Lineker's dominance of sports shows after radio giant Global bought the media firm he founded.

Neville is staying on to co-chair The Overlap, home to video series Stick to Football, tasked with building a network of video-led sports shows. Stick to Football features the likes of Roy Keane, Ian Wright and Jill Scott, while spin-offs focus on rugby union and cricket. Lineker's Goalhanger firm's star podcast is The Rest is Football.

grand theft auto
VI

GTA 6 is due in November

GTA maker Rockstar profits from overdue game

THE long-awaited release of Grand Theft Auto 6 boosted profits at Rockstar Games, long before it happens.

The UK arm of the business posted a pre-tax profit of £26.9m for the last financial year, up from £19.4m.

But Rockstar did not pay a penny in tax due to a generous relief scheme set up in 2014. In fact, the firm has not paid corporation tax since 2008.

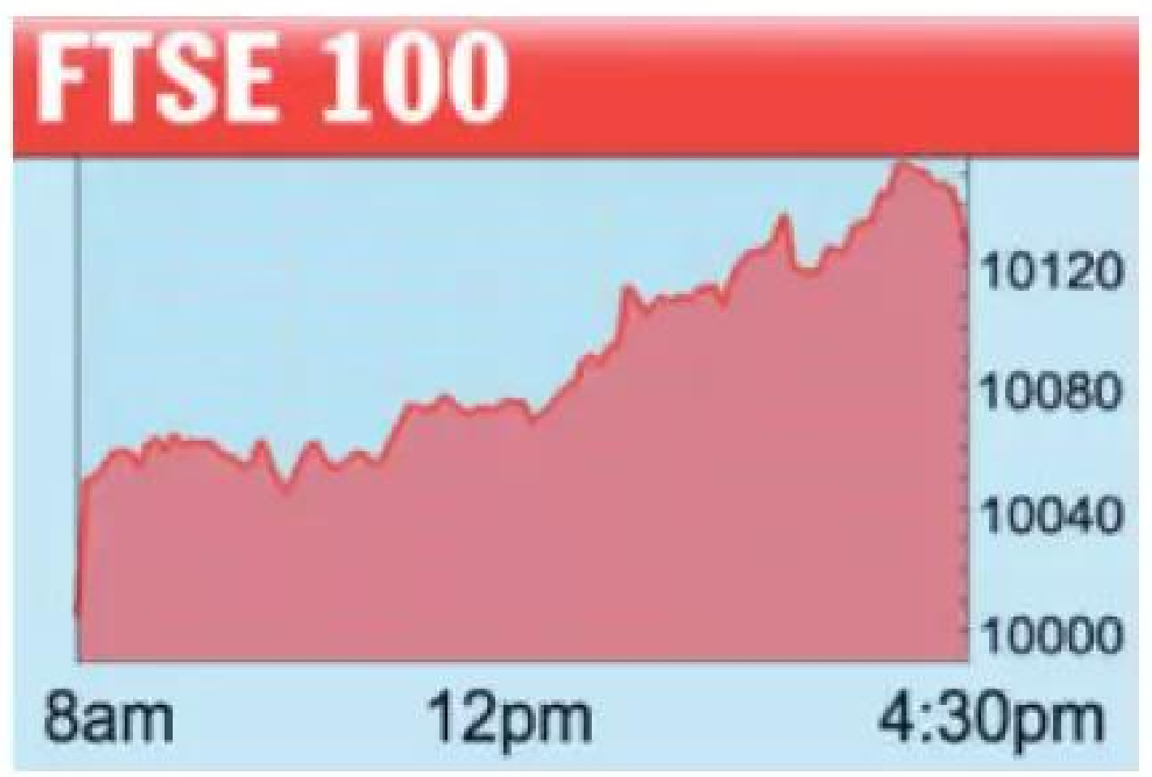
Up to the end of March, Rockstar had claimed £57.5m in tax credits – creators qualify if a game is deemed British. GTA is – despite the company having its headquarters in New York.

GTA 6 is expected to be released in November following delays – GTA 5 came out in 2013. The original game was created in Dundee.

It comes after London-based developer Sports Interactive suffered a pretax loss of £8.5m in the last financial year following the cancelled release of Football Manager 25.

++ THE FTSE 100 THE FTSE 100 THE FTSE 100 ++

			52 WEEK	
COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	HIGH	LOW
3i Group	3244#	-6	4459	2999
A.B. Foods	2147#	-1	2337	1841½
Admiral Group	†			
Airtel Africa	367¾	+3½	374	114½
Alliance Trust	1294	+6	1324	1050
Anglo American	3257	+115	3263	2003¾
Antofagasta	3542	+83	3549	1383
Ashtead Group	5430	+104	5538	3659
AstraZeneca	14038	+654	14148	9667
Auto Trader	573#	-11¾	908½	566
Aviva	690	+3	700¾	468¾
Babcock International	1388#	+41	1399¼	485¾
BAE Systems	1881½	+30½	2060	1145½
Barclays	488½	+1¾	493	241¾
Barratt Development	372¾	-10½	482¼	350
Beazley Group	806	-9½	973	769
Berkeley Grp Hldgs	3902	-78	4324	3462
BP	431¾	-3½	476¼	331¾
British Amer.Tob	4036#	-31	4421	2905
British Land	405#		420½	321¼
BT Group	181¾#	+½	222¾	138¼
Bunzl	2048	+4	3452	2032
Burberry Group	1360	+60	1376½	627¾
Centrica	176¾	+4½	180	132¼
Coca-Cola HBC	3692	-22	4034	2708
Compass Group	2305	-11	2843	2289
Convatec Group	244¼	+3½	295½	221
CRH	9508	+100	9534	6142
Croda International	2757	+29	3383	2465
DCC	4412	-12	5600	4188
Diageo	1644	+10	2555	1588
Diploma	5500	+110	5650	3624
EasyJet	522¼	+7¼	587¾	427½
Entain	771¾	-6	1022	501¼
Experian Group	3384	-43	4088	3091
F&C Inv Tst	1261#	+2	1270	962
Flutter Entert.	16600	+165	23630	14670
Fresnillo	3678	+182	3678	644
Games Workshop	18530#	+10	19840	12410
GlaxoSmithKline	1899½#	+79	1905½	1264
Glencore	428	+8¾	428¾	230
Haleon	376½	+4¼	415¼	326½
Halma	3618#	+62	3658	2360
Hikma	1585	+58	2340	1507
Hiscox	1381	-21	1429	1035
HSBC Holdings	1217½	+10¼	1227¼	713¼
IMI	2534	+10	2558	1606
Imperial Brands	3042	-5	3312	2579
Informa	897	+12½	993½	640¼
InterContinental Htl	10112½	-3452½	10253¼	5498
Intermediate Cap.Grp	2120#	+20	2450	1569
Intertek Group	4612	+6	5385	4064
Intl Consolidated Airlines	437	+12	437	224½
JD Sports	83½	-3¾	104½	63¼
Kingfisher	321½	+2¼	321½	228¼
Land Securities	624½#		650	499½
Legal & General	265½		269½	215¼
Lloyds Banking Grp	100¼	+¼	101¾	53
London & Stamford Prop	189#	-¼	204½	170½
London Stock Ex	9102	+62	12095	8138
M&G	297¼	+1	299½	172¾
Marks & Spencer	327½#	+5	411¼	316½
Melrose	620		680	386
Mondi	911½	+½	1326	819
National Grid	1172#	+22	1185½	910¾
NatWest Group	660½	-5	674¼	374½
Next	14265	+675	14580	9028
Pearson	1050	+10	1379	984½
Pershing Square Hold	4656	-120	5090	3244
Persimmon	1353½	-6½	1405	1037½
Phoenix Group	740½	-5½	756½	479½
Prudential	1195½	+17	1213	595¼
Reckitt Benckiser	6060	+72	6120	4633
RELX	3078	-12	4135	2972
Rentokil Initial	460	+15	466¾	309½
Rightmove	506½	-8¼	823¾	506½
Rio Tinto	6291	+200	6291	4117
Rolls-Royce Group	1244½	+13	1269½	563½
Sage Group	1066	+2½	1348	1050
Sainsbury (J)	332½	+4½	355¾	228¾
Schroders	415	-4½	428¼	289¼
Scottish Mortgage	1208	+8	1218½	815¼
SEGRO	719¼	+3	732¼	599
Severn Trent	2838#	+29	2885	2338
Shell	2747	+9	2931½	2291½
Smith & Nephew	1256	+28	1435	937¾
Smiths Group	2436	+10	2550	1687
Smurfit Kappa	3036	+103	4495	2558
Spirax-Sarco	6965	+110	8190	5445
SSE	2277#	+23	2324	1463½
St James's Place	1448	-5	1462	791
Standard Chartered	1836½	-19	1873	878¾
Tesco	455	+12½	475½	314½
Unilever	4744	+45	6177½	4656½
United Utilities	1216#	+16	1241	937½
Vodafone Group	100½#	+¾	102	64
Weir Group	2950	+28	2990	1984
Whitbread	2545	+45	3274	2335



EY keeps London base until 2040

BIG Four giant EY has renewed the lease on its global headquarters in London until 2040.

The agreement at 1 More London Place was due to expire in 2028 before the firm greenlit an extension.

The 10-storey building on the River Thames boasts 35,000 sq ft of office space and is the base for around 8,000 staff.

Anna Anthony, EY UK and Ireland regional managing partner, said: "Extending the lease on this iconic building marks our continued investment in London and confidence in the capital as a place to do business. We are retaining a fantastic building, in a prime location, which will continue to provide a great place to work."

EY also has another London office at Canary Wharf.

+ BG + Barclays + BT + Centrica + Dixons Carphone + First Group + HSBC + Kingfisher + Marks & Spencer + Next + Prudential + Rolls-Royce + Sainsburys + Tesco + Unilever + Vodafone + Whitbread + WPP

SHARES AT A GLANCE

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Aerospace & Defence				
Avon Rubber	1836	-8	2180	1338
Babcock International	1388#	+41	1399¼	485¾
BAE Systems	1881½	+30½	2060	1145½
Chemring Group	497½	+5	593	297½
QinetiQ Group	479½	+22½	572	361
Rolls-Royce Group	1244½	+13	1269½	563½
Senior	212	+2½	212	115¾
Alternative Energy				
Porvair	830	+10	856	626
Banks				
Barclays	488½	+1¾	493	241¾
Bco Santander	895	+2	907	374
Close Brothers	534	+9	550½	208
HSBC Holdings	1217½	+10¼	1227¼	713¼
Investec	569	-1	596	414
Lloyds Banking Grp	100¼	+¼	101¾	53
Metro Bank	125½	+2½	133½	81
NatWest Group	660½	-5	674¼	374½
Paragon Group	876½	+13	970	686½
Standard Chartered	1836½	-19	1873	878¾
Beverages				
Barr (AG)	617	-6	711	558
Coca-Cola HBC	3692	-22	4034	2708
Diageo	1644	+10	2555	1588
Chemicals				
Carclo	59	+1½	80	21
Croda International	2757	+29	3383	2465
Elementis	170½	+1½	176½	115
Johnson Matthey	2324#	+22	2330	1156
Synthomer	63½	-1	158¼	46
Treatt	216½	+5½	468½	186½
Victrex	665	+9	1068	589
Construction & Materials				
Balfour Beatty	723½	+3½	726	390½
Costain Group	162	+4½	168	86
CRH	9508	+100	9534	6142
Dialight	352	-12	368	89
Galliford Try	522	+3	539	321
Gleeson (MJ)	411	-13	538	320
Keller Group	1694	+28	1694	1240
Kier Group	224	+4	231½	115¼
Marshalls	179½	-1½	293	162
Morgan Sindall	4780	+35	4975	2945
Severfield-Rowen	28¼	-¼	52¼	19
Smart (J) & Co.	132½#		132½	110
Electricity				
Drax Group	884	+34½	884	536½
SSE	2277#	+23	2324	1463½
Telecom Plus	1372	-10	2085	1340
Electronic & Electrical Equipment				
Acal	607#	+12	738	486
Halma	3618#	+62	3658	2360
Oxford Instruments	2155#	+55	2165	1500
Renishaw	3625	+20	3725	2145
TT Electronics	120	+4	154	73
XP Power	902	+2	1314	621
Equity Investment Instruments				
Aberdeen Asian Sml	377	+4	380	256
Aberforth Smll.Co.	1594	+12	1604	1212
Acorn Income				
Albion Tech.& Gen. VCT	66		71	65½
Alliance Trust	1294	+6	1324	1050
Aurora Inv.Tst.	273	+1	273¾	212½
AVI Global Tst	259		266½	202
Baillie Gifford Japan	910	+6	951	657
Baillie Gifford Shin Nip	131½	+1	136½	95½
Bankers Inv.Tst.	135¼	+1½	135¼	101
Baronsmead VCT.2.	48½		52	46½
BH Macro GBP	401½	+1½	414	371½
Biotech Growth Trust	1185	+10	1285	620
BlackRock Mining	898	+25	899	406½
Bluehone AiM VCT2	28¼#		31	27¼
British Assets Tst	26¾	+½	49¼	26¼
Brunner Inv.Tst.	1482	+26	1482	1140
Caledonia Inv.	384#	+3½	391½	334½
City Natural Res.Yld	365	+1	365	165¾
City Of London	538	+5	540	411½
Dunedin Ent.IT.				
Dunedin Income	309	+4	309	262
Edin Wwide Inv	223	+6	223½	143
Edin.Inv.Tst.	829	+8	839	680
Edin.US Tracker	376#	-½	377	289½
Elderstreet VCT	38¾		41	36¾
F&C Cap&Inc.	347	+3	347¼	287
F&C Inv Tst	1261#	+2	1270	962
F&C Smaller Cos	179#	+1	179¾	136½
F&C US Smaller Companies	1390	+40	1522½	1115
Fidelity Asian	614	+10	628	454
Fidelity European	426½	+2½	431	338½
Fidelity Special	423½#	+5	424	295½
Finsbury Gwth&In	827	+3	962	795
Foresight Tech.VCT	65½		75½	62
Genesis E.M.F.	1098	+8	1104	632
Graphite Ent	1504	+8	1600	1070
Hansa Tst 'A'	268	+1	272	190
Hansa Tst Plc	272	+1	278	192½
Henderson Far Est	247	+1½	253½	190½
Henderson High Inc	191½#	+2	192½	151
Herald Inv.Tst.	2440	+25	2560	1738
HGCapital Tst.	508	+1	538	448
HSBC Infrastructure	116		125¼	106
Impax Env.Mkt	402	+2½	416½	310½
Int.Biotech.Tst.	946#	+12	996	480
International Public	124¾	+¼	127¾	107¾
Invesco Asia	447#	+7	449	300
Invesco Perp UK	372½	+1½	386	313½
JPM American	1116		1186	869
JPM Asian	469	+1½	473	331½
JPM Claverhouse	886	+18	886	660
JPM Emerg Mkt	143½	+2	143¾	95
JPM Euro Sml Co.	605#	+4	606	444½
JPM Global Emerging	175½#		177¾	118½
JPM Indian	1024	+6	1106	904
JPM Japanese	711#	+6	747	493
JPM Overseas IT	580	+3	610	480
JPM Smaller Co	326	+3	338	253
JPM US Sml Co.	405	-1	516	338
Jupiter Euro.	917	+11	959	757
JZ Capital Partners	189		220	184
Law Debenture	1088#	+14	1092	788
Lowland Invest Co	164½#	+2	165	114½
Majedie Inv.	276	+2	280	230
Manchester&Lon.	802		944	512
Martin Currie Prtflo Tst	356	+1	386	295
Maven Income And Growth VCT	33½#		38	33½
Mercantile Inv Tst	259#	+2½	259¼	202½
Merchants Tst.	606	+7	608	474
Mid Wynd Int.	778	-2	836	664
Monks Inv.Tst.	1538	+20	1548	1036
Montanaro Euro Tst.	165		183½	138
Montanaro Uk	102	+1	106½	87¾
Murray Inc.Tst.	928	+14	938	754
Murray Int.Tst	331#		335	239
New India	778	-6	832	686
New Star Inv.Tst.	127		129	100
North Atl.Smlr.Tst				
Northern 2 VCT	53½#		57	52½
Northern Venture	56½#		58½	55½
Oxford Tech 2 VCT	6½		7	5½
Pacific Assets	375	+2	378	302
Pacific Horizon	829	+15	832	507
Pantheon Int.	377	+1	380½	266
Pershing Square Hold	4656	-120	5090	3244
Polar Cap.Tech	474½	+3	481	255½
RCM Technology Trust	536	+2	548	307
RIT Capital Partners	2235	-10	2275	1722
Ruffer Investment	295	+1½	304	264
Schroder Asia	693#	+10	695	461½
Schroder Inc.	354#	+5	355	255
Schroder Japan	323#	+5	326	209
Schroder UK	206	+1	209	158½
Schroder UK M&S	718	+6	718	520
Scottish American	514	+6	525	454½
Scottish Mortgage	1208	+8	1218½	815¼
Shires Inc.	313#	+2	316½	222
Small Comp Div.Tst	140#		161	124
Standard Life Equity	407½#	+5½	410	288½
Standard Life UK Sml	508	+5	531	426
Temple Bar	386½	+4	388	258
Templeton Emrg.	245½#	+2	247¼	151¾
The European Inv.Tst	109		109½	84
Throgmorton Tst.	625	+5	629	469
TR Euro.Growth	220	+1½	221	163
TR Prop. IT	317#		338½	277½
Witan Pacific	316½	+8½	322	214
Wwide Healthcare	378#	+7½	397	265½
Financial Services				
3i Group	3244#	-6	4459	2999
3i Infrastructure	377#	+4½	377	301
Abrdn	207½	-4½	213	123¾
Ashmore Group	182¾	-4¼	193	125
Guinness Peat Group	83¼	+¾	96	68¼
IG Group	1342	+13	1350	913
Intermediate Cap.Grp.	2120#	+20	2450	1569
International Pers Fin	234½	-½	235½	121½
IP Group	59¼	-¼	65	34¾
Jupiter Fund Man.	173½	+11½	173½	68
Liontrust Asset Man	246½#	-20½	473½	245½
London Stock Ex.	9102	+62	12095	8138
M&G	297¼	+1	299½	172¾
Man Group	254¾	+21¾	254¾	154¾
Provident Financial	118	+2¼	128½	45
Rathbone Brothers	1974	+32	1980	1406
S & U	2240	+30	2248	1330
Schroders	415	-4½	428¼	289¼
St James's Place	1448	-5	1462	791
Tullett Prebon	255½	+1	311½	228
Walker Crips Group	13¼		16½	7½
Fixed Line Telecommunications				
Airtel Africa	367¾	+3½	374	114½
BT Group	181¾#	+½	222¾	138¼
Food & Drug Retailers				
Greggs	1742	-15	2832	1418
Marks & Spencer	327½#	+5	411¼	316½
Ocado	264	+27½	395½	172¼
Sainsbury (J)	332½	+4½	355¾	228¾
Tesco	455	+12½	475½	314½
Food Producers				
A.B. Foods	2147#	-1	2337	1841½
Anglo-Eastern	1400	+10	1447½	602
Carr's Milling	134	-2½	157	101½
Cranswick	4895#		5490	4625
Glanbia	1212½	-30¼	1368¼	788
Greencore Group	246	+3	278½	169¼
Kerry Grp 'A' Shs.	6564½	-17¼	8746¾	6335
Premier Foods	167	-1	214½	165¼
REA Holdings	125½	-2	129	61½
Tate & Lyle	362½	-3½	661	358
Gas, Water & Multiutilities				
Centrica	176¾	+4½	180	132¼
National Grid	1172#	+22	1185½	910¾
Pennon Group	542	+10½	552	387½
Severn Trent	2838#	+29	2885	2338
United Utilities	1216#	+16	1241	937½
General Industrials				
Bunzl	2048	+4	3452	2032
Goodwin	23400	+1100	23400	6180
Melrose	620		680	386
Mondi	911½	+½	1326	819
Smiths Group	2436	+10	2550	1687
Smurfit Kappa	3036	+103	4495	2558
General Retailers				
ASOS	292	-½	436½	218½
Auto Trader	573#	-11¾	908½	566
B&M Europ Value Ret	160¾	-4¼	364½	155¼
Caffyns	425#		500	415
Dixons Carphone	130#	+3¾	146	82
Dunelm	1134	+11	1232	858½
Frasers Group	686½	+2	770	546
Halfords Group	142¾#	+½	174½	116¼
Headlam Group	47	+2¼	142	44¾
Howden Joinery	832	-4	914½	679½
Inchcape	772	+3	808	638
JD Sports	83½	-3¾	104½	63¼
Kingfisher	321½	+2¼	321½	228¼
Next	14265	+675	14580	9028
Pets At Home	195¾#	+1¼	273¼	191
RM Group	114		118	82
Topps Tiles	44½#	+2¼	50	29
WH Smith	627	+6½	1307	613½
Health Care Equipment & Services				
Convatec Group	244¼	+3½	295½	221
Flying Brands	+¾		2	+½
Smith & Nephew	1256	+28	1435	937¾
Household Goods & Home Construction				
Barratt Development	372¾	-10½	482¼	350
Bellway	2708#	-68	2982	2166
Berkeley Grp Hldgs	3902	-78	4324	3462
Bovis Homes	658	-8½	698	510¾
Mcbride	145	+3¼	159	99¼
Persimmon	1353½	-6½	1405	1037½
Reckitt Benckiser	6060	+72	6120	4633
Taylor Wimpey	105¾	-2¼	123¼	93
Industrial Engineering				
Bodycote	726	+3½	733½	460½
Hill & Smith	2245#	+25	2265	1530
IMI	2534	+10	2558	1606
Morgan Crucible	223½	+1	274	177½
Northgate	387½#	+4½	395	273½
Rotork	333½	+5½	352	275¾
Spirax-Sarco	6965	+110	8190	5445
Vesuvius	409	+8½	421	313¾
Weir Group	2950	+28	2990	1984
Xaar	109½	+5½	145	59
Industrial Metals & Mining				
Castings	276#	+2	319	234
Evraz				
Ferrexpo	73¾	+1¼	110¾	44¼
Industrial Transportation				
Braemar Shipping Serv	225#	-½	278	201
Clarkson	3890	+20	4505	2995
FirstGroup	189		233	146½
Fisher (J) & Sons	373	+5	403	285
Leisure Goods				
Games Workshop	18530#	+10	19840	12410
Photo-Me Intl.	149½	+¼	230	146¼
Life Insurance				
Aviva	690	+3	700¾	468¾
Chesnara	297½	-1½	301	212¾
Legal & General	265½		269½	215¼
Phoenix Group	740½	-5½	756½	479½
Prudential	1195½	+17	1213	595¼
Media				
4imprint Group	4030	+120	6030	3035
Bloomsbury Publish.	480	+5½	672	468
Future	526½	+4½	1029	517
Informa	897	+12½	993½	640¼
ITV	80¼	-½	87¾	66¼
Pearson	1050	+10	1379	984½
Reach	55	+¾	88¼	53
STV Group	120	+14	218	103
Wilmington Group	292	-2	389	285
WPP Group	349	+9½	790½	269
Mining				
Anglo American	3257	+115	3263	2003¾
Anglo Pacific	117¾	+2	118	50
Antofagasta	3542	+83	3549	1383
BHP Billiton	2403	+79	2403	1609½
Endeavour Mining	3992	+120	3992	1460
Fresnillo	3678	+182	3678	644
Gem Diamonds	3		12	2¾
Glencore	428	+8¾	428¾	230
Hochschild Mining	524½	+11	530	168
Kenmare Res.	255	-2	436	227
Petra Diamonds	17	-¼	30½	10½
Rio Tinto	6291	+200	6291	4117
Mobile Telecommunications				
Vodafone Group	100½#	+¾	102	64
Nonequity Investment Instruments				
Oryx Int.Gwth.	1250	-2½	1392½	1042½
Rights &Iss.Inc	2060	+20	2360	1670
Nonlife Insurance				
Admiral Group				
Beazley Group	806	-9½	973	769
Hiscox	1381	-21	1429	1035
Lancashire	609	-8	694	523
Oil & Gas Producers				
BP	431¾	-3½	476¼	331¾
Cairn Energy	227	+32	331½	183
Enquest	10¼		16½	9¾
Gulf Keystone Pet.	176¼	+5	224½	148¾
Harbour Energy	193½	-3¾	294	151¼
Shell	2747	+9	2931½	2291½
Soco International	20¾#		27½	18
Tullow Oil	6¾	+¼	24½	4
Oil Equipment, Services & Distribution				
Hunting	388	+2½	396	246½
John Wood Group	24		72½	17¼
Personal Goods				
Burberry Group	1360	+60	1376½	627¾
PZ Cussons	72¾	+1¾	88¼	66
Unilever	4744	+45	6177½	4656½
Pharmaceuticals & Biotechnology				
AstraZeneca	14038	+654	14148	9667
Genus	2575	+50	2715	1424
GlaxoSmithKline	1899½#	+79	1905½	1264
Haleon	376½	+4¼	415¼	326½
Hikma	1585	+58	2340	1507
Ovoca Gold	1¼			
Oxford Biomedica	697	+34	697	232½
Real Estate Investment & Services				
Boot (Henry)	220	+4	237	196
Cardiff Property	2700		2700	2450
CLS Holdings	60½	+½	80½	53½
Foxtons	58½	+½	68¼	52¼
Harworth Group	168	+3	189½	158½
Mountview Est.	8975	-175	10200	8700
Panther Secs.	285		320	280
Rightmove	506½	-8¼	823¾	506½
Savills	1026	+24	1110	871
Wynnstay Props.	875		875	680
Real Estate Investment Trusts				
Big Yellow Group	1034#	+16	1180	848
British Land	405#		420½	321¼
Capital & Counties	141	-2¾	161¼	113½
Derwent London	1774	+27	2096	1608
Grainger	179¾	-½	228	177½
Great Portland Est.	316#	+1	363	262
Hammerson	334	+3¾	338½	220½
Helical Bar	189#	+1¾	240	171¾
Land Securities	624½#		650	499½
London & Stamford Prop	189#	-¼	204½	170½
Primary Health	97¾	-¼	103½	86¼
SEGRO	719¼	+3	732¼	599
Town Centre	127#	+1	149	117
Unite Group	559½	+4½	879½	510
Value & Income	210#	+10¼	215	173
Workspace Group	399	+1	495	362
Software & Computer Services				
Computacenter	3044	+18	3092	2024
Intec Telecom				
Microgen	300	+6	344	255
Moneysupermarket	186¾	+1¼	221½	180½
Pendragon	348	-9½	558	296
RELX	3078	-12	4135	2972
Sage Group	1066	+2½	1348	1050
Triad Group	250	+5	400	240
Support Services				
Ashtead Group	5430	+104	5538	3659
Capita Group	403½	+½	407½	175
DCC	4412	-12	5600	4188
Diploma	5500	+110	5650	3624
Essentra	93½	-2½	130¼	89¾
Experian Group	3384	-43	4088	3091
Ferguson	16600#	-190	19470	11670
Hays	54¼	-½	88¼	52
Intertek Group	4612	+6	5385	4064
Johnson Service	137	+3¾	159½	122¾
London Security	2850		3800	2750
Macfarlane Group	74	+2	120½	62¾
Mears Group	356½	-2½	417½	311½
Michael Page	236¾	+1¾	341½	219½
Mitie Group	167½	+1½	169¼	106½
Norish	18½		18½	14
Paypoint	476	+6½	853	438½
Rentokil Initial	460	+15	466¾	309½
Robert Walters	140	-3½	329	116
RS Group	652	+16½	684	487¼
Serco Group	280	+2¼	280½	147
SIG	10¼	+½	18	8½
Smiths News	77½	-¼	79¼	47½
Speedy Hire	25½#	+¾	32¼	18
SThree	184¼	+¼	293	137½
Travis Perkins	634	-½	714	494
Trifast	71	+3	87½	59
Vitec Group	12	-¾	149	11
Technology Hardware & Equipment				
BATM Advanced	16½	+¼	19¾	13
Tobacco				
British Amer.Tob	4036#	-31	4421	2905
Imperial Brands	3042	-5	3312	2579
Travel & Leisure				
888 Holdings	22½		74	21
Carnival	2406	+121	2410	1134
Celtic	199		208	142½
Compass Group	2305	-11	2843	2289
Domino's Pizza	174	+1¾	309½	167¼
EasyJet	522¼	+7¼	587¾	427½
Entain	771¾	-6	1022	501¼
Flutter Entert.	16600	+165	23630	14670
Fuller Smith & Turner	732	+16	740	508
Heavitree	220		280	200
InterContinental Htl	10112½	+66¾	10253¼	5498
Intl Consolidated Airlines	437	+12	437	224½
Irish Continental Uts	535	+2½	560	380
Marston's	64¼	+1¼	65	33¼
Mitchells & Butlers	272½	+5	291½	208½
National Express	22½	-½	80½	21
Rank Group	99¼	+3¼	160½	77¾
Saga	408	+24½	413½	111½
Wetherspoon (JD)	760½	+8½	804	541
Whitbread	2545	+45	3274	2335
AIM				
Alumasc Group	255	-4	395	232
Arbuthnot Banking	877½		1100	837½
Boohoo	24½	+¾	31½	10½
Camellia	5050		6050	4090
Churchill China	336		725	330
CML Microsystems	285		335	210
Colefax Group	975	+15	980	750
CPP Group	78	+3½	162	68½
Cropper (James)	395		407	132½
Falkland Islands	249	+9	316¾	162½
Fevertree Drinks	806	+3	998	611½
Filtronic	173	-6	181	76
James Halstead	137½	+3½	181½	132
Mothercare	2½		4¼	2¼
Mpac Group	322½	+12½	586	270
Naked Wine	72¾	-1	93½	43
Nichols	950	+18	1465	930
Northamber	32½		34	26
Portmeirion	95	+1	189	94
Regal Petroleum	16½		26½	14½
Rockhopper Exploratn	74	+2½	87¾	30½
Ten Alps	47½		73	47½
Titon Holdings	97½	+5	100	69
Volex	424½#	-½	435	198¾
Young & Co Brewery A	760	+19	992	714

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BEN BIGS UP JUKEBOX

King George hero 'is in great form'

By **Jon Lees**

BEN PAULING yesterday said The Jukebox Man's ceiling has yet to be reached as he looked forward to taking on the winners of the last three Cheltenham Gold Cups with Harry Redknapp's star.

The Naunton trainer learnt the identities of the King George winner's main rivals yesterday when defending champion Inothewayurthinkin and two-time Gold Cup winner Galopin Des Champs were nominated among 33 entries for the March 13 big race.

The Jukebox Man, who is four out of four over fences, defeated Banbridge and Gaelic Warrior by two noses with Jango Baie half a length back in fourth on Boxing Day.

He is 8-1 with William Hill to land a Gold Cup, not won by a British-trained horse since 2018.

"He's in great form out the back of Kempton," said Pauling, left. "He looks a million dollars.

"It will now be a case of building him up to be spot-on on the day.

"There's no two ways about it, it's going to be an incredibly competitive race.

"I'm just very pleased it looks a more open picture than it looked in the past.

"I believe he won round Kempton not necessarily because it was the perfect track.

"We'd have loved a bit of soft ground but there wasn't and he still managed to get his head in front.

"It's an exciting position to be in and he is without doubt one of the very fast improving second-season novices that nobody quite knows where the ceiling lies.

"We go there with positivity and look forward to it."

GOLD QUEST
The Jukebox Man is an 8-1 chance for the Cheltenham Gold Cup in March

Warwick in battle against the freeze

By **Jon Lees**

WARWICK racecourse was yesterday in a 'race against time' to be fit to stage its biggest meeting of the year on Saturday, despite a forecast thaw from today.

Clerk of the course Nessie Chanter said the track, where the Classic Chase is one of five scheduled ITV races, was "pretty solid" yesterday and "in a couple of areas we are a good two inches frozen" with one more night of sub-zero temperatures.

She added: "Ultimately it is going to be a bit of a race against time as to whether we are going to be fit to race on Saturday."

The cold snap has wiped out every jumps fixture since last Saturday with tomorrow's fixture at Catterick the latest to be cancelled.

Ffos Las could offer some respite with no problems reported for tomorrow's extra fixture, but parts of the track at Taunton, the day's other National Hunt venue, are frozen.

Ahead of Saturday, Kempton remains frozen while Wetherby, below, is "unraceable".

LINGFIELD SKYSPORTSRACING

THE SCOUT

12.35 Gearing's Point
1.05 Silky Wilkie
1.35 Rajeteriat
2.05 LISA JOY (nb)
2.35 GILES GLORY (nap)
3.05 Sanditon
3.35 Combustion

12.35 MIDNITE HANDICAP
£3,140 (Class 6)1m 7f 169yds (12 dec)

1	(8)	568L53-	**POTTERS MARMITE (30)** M Crawley 6 9-9	**C Shepherd**	64
2	(2)	L/6661-4	**ARC ZOOSVE (4)** N King 5 9-8	**R Havlin**	69
3	(3)	604041-	**TUBA (16)** F O'Brien 5 9-8	**G Mangan**	67
4	(11)	LLL074-	**THE CRAFTYMASTER (23) (C&D)** A Carroll 6 9-5	**W Carson**	65
5	(9)	704575-	**QUEENSLAND BOY (23) (C&D)** I Williams 6 9-4	**E Greatrex**	★71
6	(6)	839130-	**TARANJERINE (19)** J Boyle 4 9-3	**P Bradley**	65
7	(10)	8556/84-	● **GEARING'S POINT (35) (C)** Miss S West 8 9-3	**G Bass**	67
8	(12)	782213-	**SAPPHIRE SIROCCO (36) (C&D)** P Phelan 5 8-12	**R Clutterbuck**	68
9	(4)	713384-	**FORGLEN (19)** W Stone 5 8-12	**D Keenan**	67
10	(1)	854019-	**FORNIDO (42)** M Attwater 4 8-11	**H Davies**	63
11	(7)	5L367/4-	**HICONIC (16)** A Hales 9 8-11	**Georgia Dobie**	67
12	(5)	9/9LLLL-	**COISTY (J30)** M Madgwick 4 8-5	**Doubtful**	44

VISOR: No. 4 TONGUE STRAP: No. 11 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 2, 5, 6, 9.
SP FORECAST: 10-3 Tuba, 7-2 Sapphire Sirocco, 6 Arc Zoosve, 10 The Craftymaster, Taranjerine, Forglen, Potters Marmite, 12 Fornido, 14 Others.
2025: Further Measure 8-9-4, Liam Keniry 8-1 (M Murphy), drawn (11), 10 ran.

1.05 MIDNITE: BUILT FOR 2025 NOT 2005 H'CAP
£4,972 (4) 6f 1yds (8)

1	(5)	908813-	**TIGER CRUSADE (21) (C,D)** D M Simcock 9 9-9	**C Shepherd**	91
2	(3)	780309-	● **SILKY WILKIE (95) (D) (T)** K R Burke 7 9-6	**J Nicholls(5)**	87
3	(6)	34141L-	**NO RETURN (48) (D) (T)** C Johnston 4 9-5	**O Stammers**	93
4	(4)	11/0009-	**ELOUISE'S PRINCE (48)** L Dace 4 9-5	**Mr Jude Fernandes(7)**	79
5	(7)	186212-	**ACCRUAL (8) (D)** D Loughnane 5 9-5	**R Scott**	★95
6	(1)	310421-	**HIERARCHY (28) (D,F)** J Osborne 7 9-2	**S Osborne**	91
7	(8)	296053-	**CAYMAN TAI (49)** R Hannon 4 8-13	**T Greatrex**	91
8	(2)	14225-2	**CHARLIE MASON (5) (D)** A Carroll 5 8-13	**G Mangan**	94

BLINKERS: No. 6 TONGUE STRAP: No. 6 EYE COVERS: No. 5 HOOD: No. 4.
SP FORECAST: 11-4 Accrual, 7-2 Hierarchy, 5 Charlie Mason, Tiger Crusade, 7 Cayman Tai, 8 Silky Wilkie, 14 Elouise's Prince, 25 No Return.
2025: No corresponding race.

TRACK FACTS: GOING: Standard. Left Handed. **TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2021-26):** Robert Havlin 16% Strike rate. **TOP TRACK TRAINER (2021-26):** A Balding 20% Strike rate. **FIRST TIME:** 1.35 Fitzmaurice (blinkers), 2.05 Uthooba (tongue strap), 2.35 Giles Glory (visor, tongue strap), 12.35 The Craftymaster (visor), Taranjerine (cheek pieces). **BEATEN FAVOURITES:** 1.05 Charlie Mason(hcp). **DRAW:** Little effect. **LONGEST TRAVELLER: Silky Wilkie** (1.05) 271 miles. **STABLE SWITCH:** 1.05 **Elouise's Prince** from A McGuinness in Ireland to L Dace. 2.05 **Nuptown Girl** from C Hills to I Williams.

GOSSIP FROM THE GALLOPS

Cotswolds: TUBA (12.35 Lingfield)
North: SANDITON (3.05 Lingfield)
Lambourn: FREE YOUR SPIRIT (5.30 Kempton)
Newmarket: MOUNT ATHOS (6.30 Kempton)

1.35 CREATE YOUR BET BUILDERS AT MIDNITE H'CAP
£3,140 (6) 5f 6yds (6)

1	(6)	76/5LLL-	**FITZMAURICE (83)** C Poulton 4 9-9	**D E Hogan**	★70
2	(3)	3951L7-	**HARRY BROWN (30) (C,D)** P Crate 6 9-9	**D Keenan**	69
3	(5)	LL9452-	● **RAJETERIAT (16)** C Gordon 4 9-7	**Josephine Gordon**	65
4	(2)	85661-8	**GOGO YUBARI (3) (C&D)** A Carroll 5 9-4	**C Fallon**	68
5	(1)	82725-L	**IT'S SHOWTIME (3) (D)** C Allen 5 9-1	**Doubtful**	68
6	(4)	54LL86-	**THE DEFIANT (141) (C&D)** L Dace 10 8-11	**J Dace(5)**	54

BLINKERS: Nos. 1, 2 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 5, 6
CHEEK PIECES: No. 6.
SP FORECAST: 6-4 Rajeteriat, 2 Gogo Yubari, 9-2 The Defiant, Harry Brown, 50 Fitzmaurice.
2025: No corresponding race.

2.05 BETMGM MAIDEN STAKES (GBB RACE)
£6,480 (3) 1m 1yds (11)

1	(5)		**HARRY DON'T BITE** C Poulton 5 10-2	**J F Egan**	–
2	(8)		**FREDA** P Phelan 4 9-11	**P Bradley**	–
3	(6)	85L655-	**NUPTOWN GIRL (121)** I Williams 4 9-11	**C Fallon**	64
4	(3)	06-	**ROMAN QUEST (30)** A Balding 3 8-10	**C Hutchinson**	53
5	(10)	335222-	**SOVEREIGN WEALTH (12) (F)** G Boughey 3 8-10	**H Davies**	73
6	(2)	62-	**SPACE INVASION (26)** R Hannon 3 8-10	**C Shepherd**	67
7	(4)		**CRIMSON DAWN** D Steele 3 8-5	**S D Bowen**	–
8	(1)	L2-	● **LISA JOY (42)** R Beckett 3 8-5	**E Greatrex**	★76
9	(11)	LL-	**PEAS AND QUEUES (8)** J S Moore 3 8-5	**J Dace(5)**	36
10	(9)	9-	**UTHOOBA (105)** M Tregoning 3 8-5	**S Osborne**	44
11	(7)	4-	**VIZIJA (35)** W Haggas 3 8-5	**K O'Neill**	65

BLINKERS: No. 5
TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 5, 10.
SP FORECAST: 2 Lisa Joy, 5-2 Sovereign Wealth, 7-2 Space Invasion, 9-2 Vizija, 12 Nuptown Girl, 16 Roman Quest, 50 Freda, 66 Uthooba, Peas And Queues, Crimson Dawn, Harry Don't Bite.
2025: No corresponding race.

2.35 BETMGM'S GOLDEN GOALS HANDICAP 3YO
£3,140 (6) 7f 1yds (9)

1	(9)	6LL726-	**ATHENIAN SPIRIT (62) (F)** W Knight 9-9	**C Shepherd**	57
2	(4)	686-	**FRANKALI (35)** Ollie Sangster 9-9	**E Greatrex**	60
3	(5)	760L7-	**KANES A LOTT (27)** S C Williams 9-8	**J Dace(5)**	★61
4	(6)	568974-	● **GILES GLORY (71)** J Parr 9-6	**C Fallon**	59
5	(2)	8867-	**ELECTROCUTION (23)** C Banham 9-6	**J Haynes**	56
6	(8)	635155-	**MISS AYALA (69) (D,F)** M Usher 9-5	**G Bass**	57
7	(1)	05L425-	**FORCEFUL LADY (27)** A Carroll 9-4	**W Carson**	59
8	(3)	8970-	**EAST INDIA BREEZE (95)** J Osborne 9-1	**S Osborne**	59
9	(7)	0606-	**BLUE MOUNTAINS (23)** M Botti 9-0	**R Havlin**	58

VISOR: No. 4 TONGUE STRAP: No. 4 CHEEK PIECES: No. 1.
SP FORECAST: 3 Forceful Lady, 9-2 Blue Mountains, Athenian Spirit, 5 Miss Ayala, 8 Giles Glory, Frankali, 14 Kanes A Lott, 16 Electrocution, East India Breeze.
2025: No corresponding race.

3.05 BETMGM HANDICAP
£3,140 (6) 7f 1yds (7)

1	(7)	24706-1	**NAVAL ENSIGN (4) (C&D)** Jack Jones 4 10-0(5ex)	**C Fallon**	64
2	(5)	915/L8L-	**WALKING ON CLOUDS (20)** C Banham 7 9-8	**J Haynes**	55
3	(2)	2LU93-3	● **SANDITON (4) (T)** C Johnston 4 9-8	**C Shepherd**	★70
4	(3)	181L5L-	**NUBOUGH (34) (C,D)** M Pattinson 10 9-7	**K O'Neill**	68
5	(4)	22327-4	**BLUE EMPRESS (4)** A Watson 4 9-7	**Harry Vigors(7)**	69
6	(6)	787896-	**HENRY TUDOR (16)** M Hoad 4 9-2	**R Havlin**	68
7	(1)	LOOLL-7	**LASSWADE (4)** E De Giles 4 8-9	**S D Bowen**	54

BLINKERS: No. 5 VISOR: No. 3 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 4, 6, 7
CHEEK PIECES: No. 2 HOOD: No. 6.
SP FORECAST: 2 Naval Ensign, 9-4 Sanditon, 3 Blue Empress, 10 Henry Tudor, 12 Lasswade, 20 Walking On Clouds, Nubough.
2025: No corresponding race.

3.35 JOIN THE MIDNITE MOVEMENT HANDICAP
£3,140 (6) 6f 1yds (8)

1	(7)	212243-	**WOODHAY WHISPER (7) (D,F)** Jack Jones 4 9-9	**D E Hogan**	74
2	(3)	311666-	**TWIRLER (117) (D)** M Attwater 5 9-9	**P Bradley**	73
3	(2)	111123-	● **COMBUSTION (30) (C&D)** C Banham 5 9-7	**J Haynes**	★75
4	(6)	5L10L4-	**THE ORGANISER (30) (D)** M Pattinson 7 9-7	**K O'Neill**	73
5	(5)	14/0L4L-	**LA FLEUR PETRUS (30)** D Menuisier 5 9-6	**R Havlin**	72
6	(4)	937798-	**FORT AUGUSTUS (20)** C Wallis 4 9-5	**C Fallon**	66
7	(1)	3L1362-	**ALSHIMALI (23)** A Carroll 5 9-3	**W Carson**	73
8	(8)	025614-	**SOUTHBANK (63) (D)** C Gordon 5 9-1	**H Davies**	73

BLINKERS: No. 5 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 4, 5
HOOD: Nos. 1, 7.
SP FORECAST: 3 Woodhay Whisper, 4 Alshimali, Combustion, 6 Southbank, 7 The Organiser, 10 Twirler, Fort Augustus, 12 La Fleur Petrus.
2025: No corresponding race.

RESULTS

SOUTHWELL: Standard

4.30–POPULAR DREAM (Joanna Mason, 5-2 2nd fav) 1; Castan (9-4 fav) 2; Brazilian Belle (6-1) 3. H'cap 10 ran. 1l, 1½l. (D Shaw). Tote: £3.50; pl £1.40, £1.20, £2.70. exacta: £15.20. tricast: £31.66. trifecta: £66.20. CSF: £8.97.

5.00–KNIGHT OF MAGIC (L Morris, 6-4 fav) 1; Lawmans Blis (66-1) 2; Stintino Sunset (5-1) 3. 11 ran. 3¾l, 5l. (James Owen). Tote: £2.50; pl £1.20, £22.60, £1.90. exacta: £187.70. trifecta: £1695.80. CSF: £156.81. Non-runner: Sharp Call.

5.30–HIGHFIELD COMRADE (J Hart, 9-4 2nd fav) 1; Hijo De La Luna (16-1) 2; Jack Andrea (16-1) 3. 10 ran. 2l, 1¾l. (J & S Quinn; 7-4 fav Ignition). Tote: £3.25; pl £1.60, £4.00, £3.00. exacta: £45.10. trifecta: £584.90. CSF: £40.67. Non-runners: Ciara Storm, Muhib.

6.00–LIVE EACH DAY (J Hart, 5-1) 1; Lilly Lux (22-1) 2; Caramay (5-1) 3. H'cap 7 ran. nk, ½l. (S C Williams; 15-8 fav Selenic). Tote: £6.10; pl £2.90, £6.70. exacta: £99.60. tricast: £575.55. trifecta: £316.70. CSF: £95.06. Non-runner: Thankyou Baroness.

6.30–PRIDE EYE (P Mulrennan, 66-1) 1; The Spotlight Kid (16-1) 2; R P Mcmurphy (9-4 2nd fav) 3. H'cap 9 ran. nk, hd. (M Rimell; 85-40 fav Charlatan). Tote: £67.00; pl £4.70, £3.70, £1.40. exacta: £278.10. tricast: £3376.99. trifecta: £3721.80. CSF: £871.84. Non-runner: Space Raider.

7.00–IMOLA (L Edmunds, evens fav) 1; Amarachi (12-1) 2; Brinton (12-1) 3. H'cap 8 ran. 2¾l, 1½l. (Joey Ramsden). Tote: £2.10; pl £1.30, £3.50, £3.40. exacta: £16.90. tricast: £93.89. trifecta: £124.80. CSF: £15.73. Non-runner: Summer Evening.

7.30–ELLUSIVE BUTTERFLY (P-L Jamin, 8-11 fav) 1; Seeing Stars (13-8 2nd fav) 2; Blue Celestial (10-1) 3. 7 ran. 2½l, 7½l. (K R Burke). Tote: £1.73; pl £1.50, £1.10. exacta: £2.70. trifecta: £6.20. CSF: £2.16.

8.00–DARTREY (E Greatrex, 2-5 fav) 1; Space Bear (25-1) 2; Flash Rascal (10-1) 3. H'cap 7 ran. 2¾l, hd. (R Beckett). Tote: £1.40; pl £1.10, £5.90. exacta: £11.20. tricast: £52.43. trifecta: £44.80. CSF: £17.07. Non-runner: Mystical Land.

8.30–SHOWTIME MAHOMES (O Stammers, 10-1) 1; Lovat Scout (5-1 2nd fav) 2; No Knee Never (10-1) 3. H'cap 9 ran. ¾l, ½l. (G Tuer; 15-8 fav I Need Your Love). Tote: £11.30; pl £3.00, £2.30, £2.20. exacta: £62.20. tricast: £523.64. trifecta: £720.00. CSF: £60.27. Non-runner: Massimo Blue.

Placepot: £226.40
(Race 1) 8, 1, 3; (2) 6, 8, 9; (3) 9, 4, 11; (4) 7, 4; (5) 6, 2, 1; (6) 5, 1, 3;
Quadpot: £94.40

WOLVERHAMPTON: Standard

1.15–MY CHAMPION (C Rodriguez, 11-4 jt 2nd fav) 1; Roserunner (9-4 fav) 2; Snaafy (11-4 jt 2nd fav) 3. H'cap 5 ran. hd, ¾l. (E Bethell). Tote: £3.80; pl £1.90, £1.20. exacta: £11.90. trifecta: £26.80. CSF: £9.41. Non-runners: Aneirin's Sword, Karisma's Angel, Popty Ping.

1.45–SOVEREIGN WEALTH (P Cosgrave, 2-9 fav) 1; Hunterian (9-1) 2; Von Dutch (6-1 2nd fav) 3. 7 ran. 8½l, shd. (G Boughey). Tote: £1.23; pl £1.02, £3.10. exacta: £3.90. trifecta: £8.50. CSF: £3.71.

2.15–SECRET ROAD (P Cosgrave, 2-5 fav) 1; Tommytwohoots (25-1) 2; Sisters In The Sky (28-1) 3. 7 ran. 1¼l, 2¼l. (James Owen). Tote: £1.40; pl £1.10, £5.30. exacta: £15.00. trifecta: £126.20. CSF: £18.28. Non-runners: Causin A Commotion, Midnight Call, Piperstown, Red Walls.

2.45–EAST TYRONE (C Hardie, 18-1) 1; Autumn Angel (14-1) 2; Beauzon (evens fav) 3. 9 ran. hd, ¾l. (P Kirby). Tote: £19.00; pl £2.70, £3.00, £1.10. exacta: £70.80. trifecta: £199.10. CSF: £249.31. Non-runners: Flicka's Girl, Twilight Poppy.

3.15–SAFFRON DANDY (S M Levey, 11-1) 1; Augustus Gloop (5-2 2nd fav) 2; Magic Stone (7-2) 3. H'cap 5 ran. nk, 1¾l. (R Hannon; 7-4 fav Baker Blue). Tote: £12.00; pl £4.70, £1.80. exacta: £35.80. trifecta: £139.10. CSF: £36.19. Non-runners: Better And Better, Duskaura.

3.45–ECHALAR (H Davies, 5-1) 1; The Turpinator (11-1) 2; Diamondonthehill (4-1 2nd fav) 3. H'cap 8 ran. nk, ¾l. (J Chapple-Hyam; 10-3 fav Follow Your Heart). Tote: £6.00; pl £1.60, £4.60, £1.30. exacta: £72.80. tricast: £241.45. trifecta: £510.60. CSF: £58.15.

4.15–APPIER (K O'Neill, 6-1) 1; Circuit Breaker (5-2 2nd fav) 2; Bashful Boy (7-4 fav) 3. H'cap 6 ran. ½l, 1¾l. (R Bandey). Tote: £7.00; pl £2.80, £1.70. exacta: £26.90. trifecta: £66.10. CSF: £21.35.

4.45–LATIN (P Bradley, 10-3 2nd fav) 1; Apache Green (22-1) 2; Super Hit (16-1) 3. H'cap 10 ran. 1¾l, ¾l. (James Owen; 5-2 fav First Greyed). Tote: £5.80; pl £1.80, £6.30, £3.00. exacta: £97.60. tricast: £1049.16. trifecta: £1113.70. CSF: £75.53.

5.15–FOOLS RUSH IN (JP Sullivan, 11-4 fav) 1; Corundum (9-2) 2; King Of Speed (10-1) 3. H'cap 9 ran. 1¾l, 2¾l. (R Carr). Tote: £3.75; pl £1.60, £1.60, £2.20. exacta: £24.20. tricast: £110.25. trifecta: £129.30. CSF: £16.08.

Placepot: £18.00
(Race 1) 4, 3; (2) 5, 3; (3) 9, 11; (4) 4, 1, 3; (5) 7, 3; (6) 6, 7, 2;
Quadpot: £11.20

VITAL STATISTICS

IN-FORM TRAINERS (last 10 days) S Edmunds 60% (1 wins and 2 places from 5 runners), M Botti 56% (3/2/9), D M Simcock 54% (4/3/13), E Walker 50% (3/2/10).
IN-FORM JOCKEYS P J McDonald 57% (1 wins and 3 places from 7 runners), Pat Cosgrave 50% (2/5/14), Pierre Jamin 50% (1/3/8), Sean Levey 50% (2/6/16).

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5.30 Free Your Spirit
6.00 Lerwick
6.30 The Lost King
7.00 FORESEEN
7.30 Sax Appeal
8.00 Sands Of Havana

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5.00 TRY UNIBET'S SUPPORTBOOSTS HANDICAP 3YO

£3,140 (Class 6) 6f (12 declared)

1	(9)	45L-	**EUPHONIA (32)** E Walker 9-9	**L Morris**	**68**
2	(12)	066252-	● **ESPONA BAY (77)** M Bell 9-9	**O Murphy**	**69**
3	(6)	050948-	**STOCK MARKET (23)** A Carroll 9-8	**Jack Doughty**	**61**
4	(11)	55313L-	**STAY SHARP (19)** James Owen 9-7	**P Cosgrave**	**67**
5	(3)	997145-	**REALITY QUEEN (8) (D)** J Portman 9-7	**R Hornby**	**67**
6	(1)	352622-	**FILLY FODEN (34)** B Millman 9-6	**L Edmunds**	**67**
7	(8)	654-	**YA HABIBTI (19)** D Cunha 9-6	**G Wood**	**65**
8	(7)	8566-	**COPPERFIELD (33) (F) (T)** J Camacho 9-6	**Jason Watson**	**60**
9	(4)	L0L-	**MUSICAL SOLDIER (23)** Ollie Sangster 9-2	**Libby Swallow(7)**	**65**
10	(2)	6L639-	**REAL GOLD (23)** R Cook & J Bridger 9-1	**R Kavanagh(5)**	**68**
11	(5)	535264-	**MADMAN (46)** T Ward 9-0	**A Voikhansky**	**68**
12	(10)	883660-	**GRAND ECHO (92)** M Usher 8-13	**T Heard**	**★70**

VISOR: Nos. 4, 8, 11 TONGUE STRAP: No. 11 CHEEK PIECES: No. 12 HOOD: No. 9.

SP FORECAST: 5-2 Espona Bay, 4 Filly Foden, 7 Ya Habibti, 8 Madman, 10 Reality Queen, 12 Copperfield, Euphonia, Stay Sharp, 14 Others.

2025: No corresponding race.

5.30 UNIBET/EBF RESTRICTED NOVICE STAKES

£5,400 (4) 7f (9)

1	(5)	4	**JE SUIS CELEBRE (5)** I Williams 4 9-12	**Jason Watson**	**61**
2	(3)	44-	**SOVIET SYMPHONY (16)** E J-Houghton 4 9-11	**C Bishop**	**61**
3	(2)	41-	● **FREE YOUR SPIRIT (16) (D,F)** R Hughes 3 9-5	**D J Murphy(7)**	**67**
4	(9)	4-	**BLUE MOON WARRIOR (28)** J & A O'Neill 3 8-12	**P Cosgrave**	**56**
5	(6)	L-	**NICOLAI (21)** J Channon 3 8-12	**N Currie**	**29**
6	(4)	732-	**OKIRU (16)** A Watson 3 8-12	**L Morris**	**66**
7	(8)	L-	**OUR GUY (28)** D Coakley 3 8-12	**R Hornby**	**44**
8	(7)	423257-	**ADALIDA (39)** S C Williams 3 8-7	**M Ghiani**	**★71**
9	(1)	L6-	**SANDS END (8)** W Muir & C Grassick 3 8-3	**T Heard**	**53**

CHEEK PIECES: No. 8.

SP FORECAST: 6-4 Free Your Spirit, 2 Okiru, 3 Adalida, 20 Soviet Symphony, 25 Sands End, Je Suis Celebre, 33 Blue Moon Warrior, Our Guy, 50 Nicolai.

2025: Transparent 3-8-12, Sean Levey 4-6 Fav (T Ward), drawn (3), 13 ran.

6.00 BET 20 GET 20 WITH UNIBET HANDICAP

£4,187 (5) 7f (10)

1	(8)	797463-	● **LERWICK (28)** M Loughnane 6 9-9	**G Wood**	**77**
2	(10)	342239-	**TRIGGERMAN (20) (T)** J Camacho 5 9-7	**Jason Watson**	**★81**
3	(5)	469L97-	**BILLY MILL (147) (C&D)** B Millman 8 9-7	**L Edmunds**	**73**
4	(2)	8530-	**RORY'S ROYALE (28)** S Hodgson 4 9-6	**L Morris**	**70**
5	(3)	2/44L00-	**CAPOTE'S DREAM (28) (C)** T Ward 9 9-4	**S M Levey**	**74**
6	(9)	59588U-	**TOKEN GESTURE (21) (C&D)** M Usher 4 9-3	**T Heard**	**80**
7	(1)	64L536-	**MAID IN CHELSEA (21)** E J-Houghton 5 9-0	**C Bishop**	**77**
8	(4)	2281L1-	**UP THE ANTI (28) (C)** A Carroll 4 8-13	**O Murphy**	**78**
9	(6)	537220-	**DANEHILL STAR (11)** A Carroll 5 8-11	**Jack Doughty**	**78**
10	(7)	747454-	**GUNDOGAN (36)** A Carroll 5 8-10	**M Slater(7)**	**79**

BLINKERS: Nos. 1, 5 VISOR: No. 2 TONGUE STRAP: No. 5 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 4, 6, 7.

SP FORECAST: 15-8 Up The Anti, 4 Lerwick, 9-2 Gundogan, 7 Triggerman, 10 Maid In Chelsea, 14 Danehill Star, Billy Mill, 20 Token Gesture, 25 Others.

2025: No corresponding race.

6.30 TRY UNIBET'S NEW SMARTVIEW RACECARDS H'CAP

£13,608 (2) 7f (8)

1	(6)	6/12L23-	**MOUNT ATHOS (35) (C&D,F)** J Tate 7 9-10	**R Hornby**	**112**
2	(3)	676103-	**WITCH HUNTER (65) (D,F)** R Hannon 7 9-5	**S M Levey**	**113**
3	(1)	45404-3	**POPMASTER (6) (C,D)** E Walker 8 8-12	**O Murphy**	**112**
4	(5)	612665-	**GRAND TRAVERSE (43) (C&D)** A Watson 6 8-11	**L Morris**	**★114**
5	(8)	1115/7L-	**DOCTOR KHAN JUNIOR (25) (D)** G Oldroyd 7 8-10	**P J McDonald**	**106**
6	(2)	267023-	**HEATHCLIFF (21) (C&D)** J Fanshawe 5 8-9	**G Wood**	**111**
7	(4)	916/30-	● **THE LOST KING (202) (D)** A Balding 4 8-8	**N Currie**	**112**
8	(7)	44916L-	**GALLANT (35) (C)** Oli Rix 4 8-6	**Jack Doughty**	**111**

VISOR: No. 5 TONGUE STRAP: No. 8 CHEEK PIECES: No. 4.

SP FORECAST: 15-8 Mount Athos, 3 Heathcliff, 6 The Lost King, Witch Hunter, Popmaster, 16 Grand Traverse, 20 Doctor Khan Junior, 33 Gallant.

2025: No corresponding race.

7.00 TRY UNIBET'S SAME RACE MULTI HANDICAP

£4,187 (5) 1m (10)

1	(2)	351939-	**PORT ROAD (30) (C&D)** S Dow 5 9-9	**T Heard**	**★84**
2	(8)	345311-	● **FORESEEN (37) (C&D)** A Carroll 5 9-9	**Jack Doughty**	**80**
3	(1)	31/0-	**CAPH STAR (35) (C&D)** Gordon Treacy 7 9-9	**A Rawlinson**	**57**
4	(3)	L53239-	**FROSTMAGIC (49)** I Mohammed 4 9-8	**M Ghiani**	**82**
5	(9)	422448-	**TOP OF THE CLASS (49) (C&D)** M Loughnane 6 9-7	**L Morris**	**81**
6	(6)	1/4839-	**STUDY UP (23)** M Loughnane 5 9-7	**F Marsh**	**81**
7	(5)	787412-	**RAJINOORA (27)** M Bell 4 9-7	**O Murphy**	**81**
8	(10)	3308L4-	**MOSTAWAA (118) (C&D)** H Main 10 9-7	**J Mitchell**	**77**
9	(4)	450825-	**I AM ME (23)** M Murphy 4 9-5	**R Hornby**	**82**
10	(7)	000057-	**BEAUTY GENERATION (85) (C&D)** R Burdon 5 9-2	**G Wood**	**83**

CHEEK PIECES: No. 5 HOOD: No. 6.

SP FORECAST: 6-4 Foreseen, 7-2 Rajinoora, 7 Frostmagic, 12 Study Up, Port Road, I Am Me, Beauty Generation, 14 Top Of The Class, 20 Others.

2025: Monopolise 5-9-8, Edward Greatrex 9-2 (M Loughnane), drawn (2), 12 ran.

7.30 UNIBET 3 UNIBOOSTS A DAY HANDICAP

£6,281 (4) 1m 7f 218yds (7)

1	(1)	123431-	● **SAX APPEAL (10) (C&D,F) (T)** C Johnston 6 10-6(5ex)	**W Fentiman(5)**	**87**
2	(4)	183317-	**MACARI (28)** Miss S West 6 9-13	**Rose Dawes(5)**	**87**
3	(7)	21/647L-	**VICE PRESIDENT (36)** R Hughes 5 9-9	**F Marsh**	**★93**
4	(3)	31008/2-	**CRUDEN (30)** Dan Horsford 5 9-7	**Jason Watson**	**87**
5	(5)	3937/0L-	**TORCELLO (116)** S Lycett 12 9-7	**Isobelle Chalmers(7)**	**65**
6	(2)	044444-	**BARENBOIM (37) (C)** T Dascombe 8 9-5	**P-L Jamin**	**92**
7	(6)	435032-	**BASHFUL BOY (10) (D)** D Pipe 10 9-4	**R Hornby**	**88**

CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 3, 4, 6.

SP FORECAST: Evens Sax Appeal, 4 Bashful Boy, 7 Cruden, 8 Macari, 10 Vice President, 12 Barenboim, 25 Torcello.

2025: Zoran 8-9-13, David Probert 9-4 JtFav (E Lavelle), drawn (1), 8 ran.

8.00 UNIBET HANDICAP

£3,140 (6) 1m 2f 219yds (14)

1	(13)	8L4667/	**DEFINITE (J472)** G & J Moore 7 9-13	**Jason Watson**	**–**
2	(4)	241LL9-	**EGOISTE (42) (C)** D Menuisier 7 9-12	**Dominique Van Der Kraats(7)**	**67**
3	(14)	67LL55-	**TROY STORY (26)** E J-Houghton 4 9-11	**C Bishop**	**66**
4	(12)	721532-	**FIDDLERS GREEN (21) (C&D)** J G O'Shea 7 9-11	**R Kavanagh(5)**	**67**
5	(6)	426573-	**VOIX DE BOCELLI (21) (F)** Miss H Knight 6 9-10	**D J Murphy(7)**	**62**
6	(7)	5175L0-	**PHAEDRA (21) (D)** R Hannon 4 9-10	**S M Levey**	**66**
7	(8)	L02178-	**AGE OF TIME (42)** I Williams 5 9-10	**N Currie**	**67**
8	(3)	03/86LL-	**SONNERIE POWER (309) (C)** D Killahena & G McPherson 7 9-9	**L Morris**	**68**
9	(2)	65L-	**HOPJES (J44)** H Dickin 6 9-9	**R Hornby**	**60**
10	(11)	346-	**SAAHIR (27)** D P Quinn 4 9-8	**P J McDonald**	**★69**
11	(10)	45L574-	● **SANDS OF HAVANA (16)** R Hughes 4 9-8	**F Marsh**	**65**
12	(9)	0306L9-	**FLYNN RYDER (20)** S Edmunds 4 9-7	**K S McHugh(7)**	**61**
13	(1)	4236L-	**READ ALL ABOUT IT (37)** T Ward 4 9-6	**A Voikhansky**	**67**
14	(5)	16577-3	**TAKE THE BOAT (5) (C)** G Nicholls 4 9-4	**W Cox**	**67**

CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 3, 4, 7, 9, 12.

SP FORECAST: 3 Fiddlers Green, 9-2 Sands Of Havana, 6 Voix De Bocelli, 7 Age Of Time, 8 Troy Story, 12 Take The Boat, 14 Definite, 16 Egoiste, Phaedra, Saahir, 25 Others.

2025: No corresponding race.

TRACK FACTS: GOING: Standard. Right Handed. **TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2021-26):** Oisin Murphy 23% Strike rate. **TOP TRACK TRAINER (2021-26):** A Balding 16% Strike rate. **FIRST TIME:** 5.00 Copperfield (visor), Grand Echo (cheek pieces), 5.30 Adalida (cheek pieces), 6.00 Rory's Royale (cheek pieces), 8.00 Troy Story (cheek pieces), Hopjes (cheek pieces). **BEATEN FAVOURITES:** 5.00 Espona Bay. 5.30 Adalida. 6.00 Triggerman(hcp). **DRAW:** No advantage. **LONGEST TRAVELLER: Sax Appeal** (7.30) 245 miles. **STABLE SWITCH:** 5.00 **Filly Foden** from Alice Haynes to B Millman. 7.00 **Beauty Generation** from J Harrington in Ireland to R Burdon. 8.00 **Definite** from M Harris to G & J Moore, **Sonnerie Power** from M Appleby to D Killahena & G McPherson.

HOOF PRINT

❑WARREN GREATREX has the Grand Annual in mind for Mighty Bandit, who could further his chasing experience this weekend in the William Hill's Racing Bet Builder Handicap Chase, if Wetherby beats the cold snap. The Lambourn handler is plotting a course to either the Cheltenham Festival or Aintree in the spring."If I can get Mighty Bandit to Wetherby, it looks a nice little race for him," said Greatrex.

Gilmore threatens to take axe to crisis club's squad

BY **ADAM HATHAWAY**

HARLEQUINS interim boss Jason Gilmore has told his misfiring squad they are playing for their futures as they attempt to get out of the current tailspin.

The crisis club hit rock bottom on Saturday when they were hammered 66-21 at Northampton meaning they have conceded 149 points in their last three Gallagher Prem games.

The squad held a no-holds-barred meeting on Monday to review the collapse ahead of Sunday's Champions Cup clash with the Stormers.

Chief executive Laurie Dalrymple has also addressed the players and Gilmore hinted the current group could be trimmed next year if things do not improve.

Gilmore said: "I'd never question them being toxic or just giving up or anything like that. They're pushing hard. The fact of the matter is, at our club at the moment we do have a lot of players on contract.

"Now, one of the changes we're looking at is potentially reducing the number of contracts without being silly.

"We've got to make sure the money we're spending with the salary cap, that we're spending it wisely and we're getting good return on the field

"We're looking at how accurate we can get with the spend that we put into the squad to make sure we're getting most bang for our buck. The boys are aware of that. Something we're looking for in terms of next year is, what is the ideal number of contracts?"

PAINFUL Difficult season for Gilmore

Currently eighth in the league table, with two wins from nine, the 2021 English champions got off on the wrong foot when head coach Danny Wilson was poached by Wales on the eve of the campaign.

Gilmore was promoted to head coach for the rest of the season. Dalrymple has claimed Wilson's defection derailed the campaign from the word go and a rerun of Saturday's hammering at Northampton was only the latest video nasty Gilmore has had to review.

He added: "It was a tough watch but we got a lot out of it.

"What is difficult when you do an interim role, particularly coming into round one and you are given the keys to it, is where you want to make change and making it on the run.

"Where you see problems you know you can fix, it is not like you have a six or seven-week window, a pre-season or a recruitment plan you are going in with."

Quins fans have taken to social media to protest their club's plight and flanker Jack Kenningham, part of that 2021 title-winning squad, feels their pain.

He said: "Everybody is desperate to turn things around. I am gutted – I put my body on the line every time I play for Quins.

"I love the club, having been a season ticket holder when I was about 11. It hurts me potentially more than others when we lose."

QUINS COULD BE CUT DOWN TO SIZE

PINK ON THE BRINK Quins stars look dejected during heavy loss to Saints

'One of the changes we're looking at is reducing the number of contracts without being silly'

Martin's comeback date is still a mystery

LONG WAIT Martin's previous Tigers game was a year ago

BY **ADAM HATHAWAY**

GEORGE MARTIN is running out of time to make the start of the Six Nations, with Leicester admitting they do not know when he will return.

The destructive lock, who holds one of 25 enhanced EPS England deals, has been out for nearly a year with damage to a nerve in his shoulder. He has not played Test rugby since England's 26-25 defeat of France on February 8 last year and has not turned out for Tigers since last January.

The 24-year-old was in national camp in the autumn, rehabbing and helping with training but his return date is unclear.

Leicester head coach Geoff Parling said: "It certainly won't be in the short term but it is improving. It is one of those injuries, it is a bit more unusual and you can't put a date on it."

Leicester face Manu Tuilagi's Bayonne in the Champions Cup on Saturday with Freddie Steward likely to make it after going off with a head knock in Sunday's 36-28 win against Saracens.

The England full-back has passed concussion tests and is set to be available.

Bath's Max Ojomoh, who made his first Twickenham start for England in the 27-23 November win against Argentina, is also set for a return to action.

The centre missed Saturday's 33-26 defeat by Exeter with a calf injury but is in line for Friday's European trip to Castres.

Failure to get a Head drops England into trouble

JACKS FUMBLE ALLOWS TRAVIS TO KEEP ON RUNNING THE SHOW

FROM **RORY DOLLARD** in Sydney

JACOB BETHELL threw his support behind Will Jacks after his nightmare drop – as Travis Head's third century of the Ashes series put Australia in command of this fifth Test in Sydney.

Head followed match-winning tons in Perth and Adelaide with his first at the SCG, maintaining a furious pace as he cracked 163 off 166 balls, but was gifted a life by Jacks on 121.

After steadying himself under the most regulation of catches at deep midwicket Jacks, who pulled off a one-handed blinder in Brisbane last month, took his eye off the ball and saw it bobble harmlessly to the turf.

It was probably the worst piece of fielding yet from a side whose standards have been markedly below those of the hosts from start to finish, and seemed to cast a pallor of gloom over the team.

Bethell said: "We had to pick some of the boys up and help them along for a bit... but I can't see him dwelling on it too much.

"We just said, 'Hard luck mate, everybody drops them'.

"I thought he bowled very well afterwards...He's a confident guy."

There were moments when it looked like Ben Stokes' side were out of ideas, out of inspiration and out of time – not least when Jacks spilled his gimme.

That was a fresh addition to the lowlights reel of a troubled tour and came in a demoralising morning session that included the solitary consolation wicket of nightwatchman Michael Neser, three more half-chances going to ground and two wasted reviews.

Bethell (below) kicked off a minor fightback when his occasional spin did for Head on 163, with Usman Khawaja, Alex Carey and Cameron Green dismissed but Steve Smith motored on.

Smith's unbeaten 129 was his 13th career hundred against England. In the process he surpassed Jack Hobbs as the second highest run-scorer in Ashes history reaching 3,683 runs, behind only Don Bradman (5,028).

Head and Smith's combined efforts lifted Australia to a towering 518-7 on day three at the SCG, a lead of 134 as they made light of England's 384.

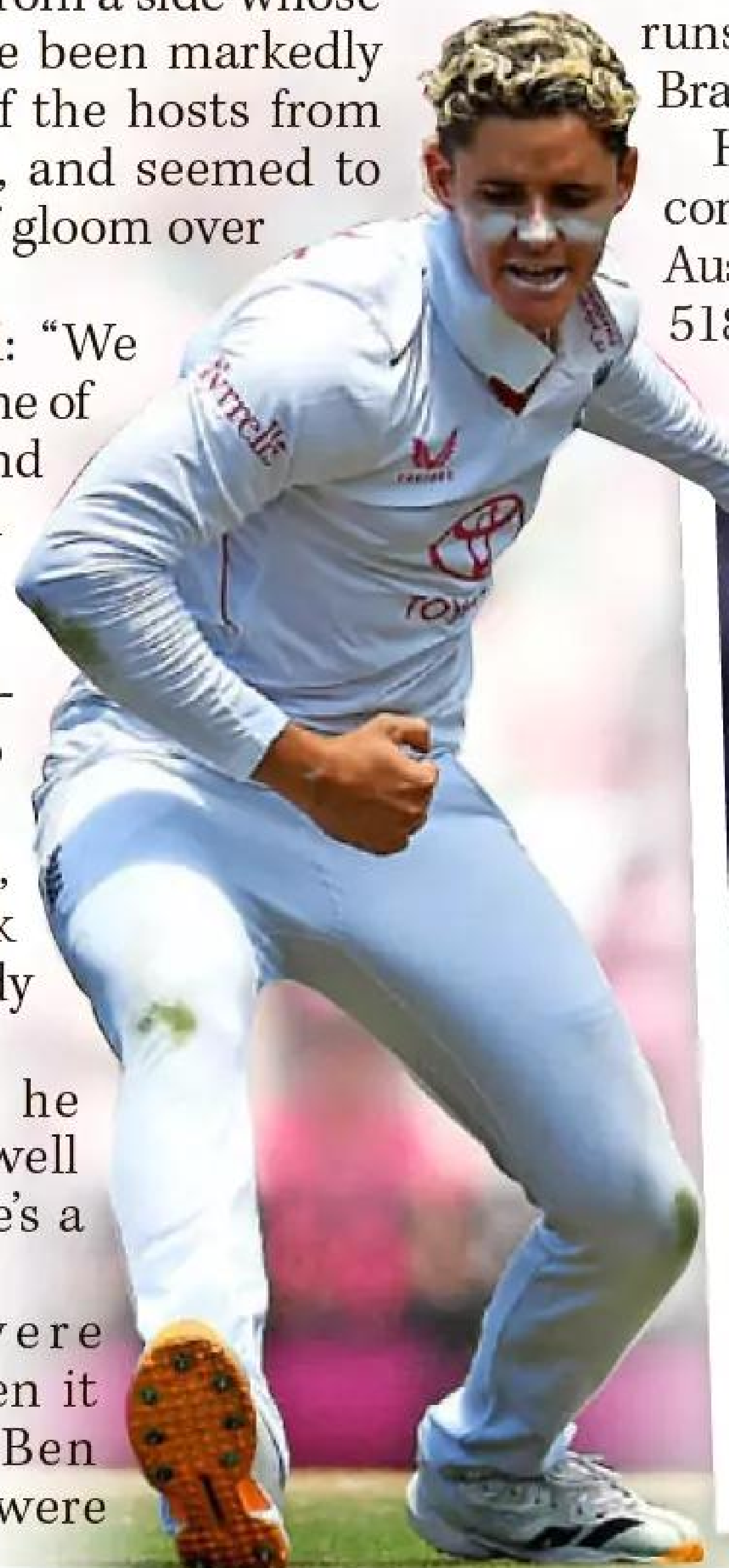
Head won the Compton-Miller Medal for player of the series when England last visited four years ago and is in a straight battle with leading wicket-taker Mitchell Starc for the honour this time.

Since moving up to opener in place of the injured Khawaja in the first Test, he has tapped into an astonishing purple patch with three centuries and 600 runs at a rampant strike-rate of 87.59.

Asked if his success in an unfamiliar role was a surprise even to him, he said: "Extremely! I'm not normally the one that's doing the heavy lifting.

"I would've liked to have thought I was good enough to have a series like I have, but to go out and do it and be as consistent as I have been is very pleasing."

SLIPPING AWAY... Jacks spills Head chance as Australia took control



BATTERED Smith piled on the pain with a century

It looked like Ben Stokes' side were out of ideas, out of inspiration and out of time

Horror crash has not ruled out Joshua fight with Fury

BY **MARTIN DOMIN**

BOXING

ANTHONY JOSHUA could still fight Tyson Fury this year despite cheating death in a fatal car crash last week.

The former heavyweight world champion escaped with minor injuries from the smash in Nigeria which killed two close friends.

Joshua attended the funerals of Latif Ayodele and Sina Ghami in London last Sunday. The 36-year-old (right) has made no public comment about the incident or his future in the sport.

Joshua had been in the front seat of the Lexus SUV but was asked to move behind the driver moments before the journey, where his car crashed into a stationary truck, a switch which potentially saved his life. Joshua, who knocked out Jake Paul last month, will have to push back his planned return to the ring on Valentine's Day.

He is also pencilled in to face bitter rival Fury in September after the latter ended his latest retirement.

And while a man claiming to be Joshua's uncle said his nephew had told his family he intends to retire, it is understood Joshua has no such plans.

Fury, meanwhile, is ready to agree a deal to take on Joshua. And he insisted his comeback is not financially motivated, despite the promise of a £100million payday. Fury said: "I've made an absolute fortune. It's not about the money; it's about the love of the sport."

WORLD OF SPORT

Norrie rallies to oust Ugo after slow start

TENNIS

CAMERON NORRIE recovered from a poor start to his 2026 campaign with victory against France's Ugo Humbert at the Brisbane International.

The British No.2 (right) lost the first four games and eight of the opening nine before hitting back, saving three match points in the second-set tie-break and eventually coming through in Queensland 1-6 7-6 7-5.

There were also opening victories for British duo Katie Boulter and Sonay Kartal at the ASB Classic in Auckland.

Boulter, who needed a wild card into the event after a poor 2025 saw her ranking slip outside the top 100, was a 6-3 6-3 winner over Ukraine's Yuliia Starodubtseva.

British No.2 Kartal upset sixth seed Janice Tjen 6-1 6-7 6-3.

The pair could meet in the quarter-finals, but Boulter would need to overcome top seed and world No.13 Elina Svitolina.

NORRIE

THE BIG PICTURE

FREEZE FRAME A swimmer takes the plunge into the icy water in Harbin, China

FORMULA ONE

BY **DANIEL MOXON**

MAX VERSTAPPEN has avoided losing another close ally with his race engineer set to stay.

Gianpiero Lambiase has been the voice in the four-time champion's ear ever since he joined Red Bull as a fresh-faced teenager.

For personal reasons Lambiase had been seeking a role which requires less travel, which led to talks with Aston Martin and Williams. He has decided, though, to stay for now, as head of racing at Red Bull while also continuing as race engineer.

Verstappen, 28, has already lost long-serving Red Bull adviser Helmut Marko, who he saw as a second father figure, after the 82-year-old's exit last month.

And his performance engineer Tom Hart is bound for Williams at the end of 2026.

10 to tackle

1. Who drove fastest lap and won the sprint race classification in the 13th round of last year's F2 Championship, in Qatar?
2. **Which Saracens pair each scored two tries in this season's Prem home defeat by Bath?**
3. Who was named female World Athlete of the Year 2025?
4. **Which English football team plays at Broadfield Stadium?**
5. What nationality is the cricket umpire Marais Erasmus?
6. **Which Portuguese runner won the women's marathon at the 1988 Olympics?**
7. How many reds are there on a snooker table?
8. **Which Scandinavian country produced the winners of the large hill ski jump in the first six Winter Olympics?**
9. Which German city hosted the World Athletics Championships in 1993?
10. **Which Irish golfer won his first Major in The Open at Carnoustie in 2007?**

RATINGS
0-3 Oh dear
4-6 Small beer
7-9 So near
10 Sporting Seer

ANSWERS: 1 Richard Verschoor. 2 Juan Martin Gonzalez and Max Malins. 3 Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone. 4 Crawley Town. 5 South African. 6 Rosa Mota. 7 15. 8 Norway. 9 Stuttgart. 10 Padraig Harrington.

SPORT IN BRIEF

African Cup Of Nations - Round of 16

ALGERIA (0)..........1 CONGO DR (0)......0
Boulbina 119
AET – Score after 90 mins 0-0.

IVORY COAST (2)...3 BURKINA FASO (0) 0
Diallo 20
Y Diomande 32
Toure 87

Premier League

WEST HAM (1).......1 NOTTM FOR (0)....2
Murillo 13 (og) | Dominguez 55, Gibbs-White 89 (pen)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Arsenal	20	15	3	2	40	14	48
Man City	20	13	3	4	44	18	42
Aston Villa	20	13	3	4	33	24	42
Liverpool	20	10	4	6	32	28	34
Chelsea	20	8	7	5	33	22	31
Man Utd	20	8	7	5	34	30	31
Brentford	20	9	3	8	32	28	30
Sunderland	20	7	9	4	21	19	30
Newcastle	20	8	5	7	28	24	29
Brighton	20	7	7	6	30	27	28
Fulham	20	8	4	8	28	29	28
Everton	20	8	4	8	22	24	28
Tottenham	20	7	6	7	28	24	27
Crystal Palace	20	7	6	7	22	23	27
Bournemouth	20	5	8	7	31	38	23
Leeds	20	5	7	8	26	33	22
Nottm Forest	21	6	3	12	21	34	21
West Ham	21	3	5	13	22	43	14
Burnley	20	3	3	14	20	39	12
Wolves	20	1	3	16	14	40	6

William Hill Scottish Premiership

RANGERS (2).........2 ABERDEEN (0)......0
Fernandez 11 | Att: 50,375
Raskin 41

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hearts	20	13	5	2	39	17	44
Rangers	21	11	8	2	32	17	41
Celtic	20	12	2	6	34	21	38
Motherwell	21	9	9	3	30	16	36
Hibernian	21	9	7	5	36	23	34
Falkirk	20	7	6	7	21	27	27
Dundee Utd	21	5	10	6	28	30	25
Aberdeen	21	7	4	10	20	26	25
Dundee	21	6	4	11	19	33	22
St Mirren	19	4	6	9	16	26	18
Kilmarnock	21	2	7	12	19	38	13
Livingston	20	1	6	13	20	40	9

KDM Evolution Trophy Round Of 16

RAITH (1)..............1 QN OF STH (0)......0
Easton 37 (pen) | Att: 854

AIRDRIE (0)...........3 MONTROSE (0).....1
Gallagher 47 | Loudon 61
Mochrie 60
Henderson 81

TENNIS

ATP & WTA BRISBANE INTERNATIONAL, AUSTRALIA—Men's Singles 1st rd: B Nakashima (USA) bt A Davidovich Fokina (Spa) 7-6 (7-4) 6-4; R Collignon (Bel) bt D Shapovalov (Can) 6-4 6-2; G Mpetshi Perricard (Fra) bt T Paul (USA) 7-6 (7-2) 3-6 7-6 (8-6) A Kovacevic (USA) bt N Kyrgios (Aus) 6-3 6-4; C Norrie (Gbr) bt U Humbert (Fra) 1-6 7-6 (8-6) 7-5; R Hijikata (Aus) bt A Walton (Aus) 6-3 6-2; G Dimitrov (Bul) bt P Carreno Busta (Spa) 6-3 6-2 **Women's Singles 1st rd:** M Keys (USA) bt M Kessler (USA) 6-4 6-3; D Shnaider (Rus) bt A Potapova (Aut) 6-1 6-3; A Sabalenka (Blr) bt C Bucsa (Spa) 6-0 6-1; E Alexandrova (Rus) bt S Kenin (USA) 7-6 (7-2) 6-3; S Cirstea (Rom) bt J Ostapenko (Lat) 6-2 7-6 (7-5) K Muchova (Cze) bt A Tomljanovic (Aus) 4-6 6-1 7-6 (7-5) E Rybakina (Kaz) bt S Zhang (Chn) 6-3 7-5; P Badosa (Spa) bt M Bouzkova (Cze) 6-7 (4-7) 6-4 6-2. **ATP & WTA UNITED CUP (PERTH & SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA)—Group B: Men's Singles:** Z Bergs (Bel) bt F Auger-Aliassime (Can) 6-4 6-2 **Women's Singles:** E Mertens (Bel) bt V Mboko (Can) 6-3 3-6 6-3 **Mixed Doubles:** E Mertens (Bel) & Z Bergs (Bel) bt V Mboko (Can) & C Harper (Can) 6-3 3-6 10-5 Belgium bt Canada 3-0 **Group D: Men's Singles:** A de Minaur (Aus) bt J Mensik (Cze) 6-4 6-1 **Women's Singles:** B Krejcikova (Cze) bt M Joint (Aus) 6-4 6-1 **Mixed Doubles:** S Hunter (Aus) & A de Minaur (Aus) bt M Skoch (Cze) & D Svrcina (Cze) 6-2 6-3 Australia bt Czech Republic 2-1 **Group C: Men's Singles:** A Rinderknech (Fra) bt F Cobolli (Ita) 6-7 (4-7) 7-6 (7-5) 7-5 **Women's Singles:** J Paolini (Ita) bt L Jeanjean (Fra) 6-2 6-3 **Mixed Doubles:** S Errani (Ita) & A Vavassori (Ita) bt S Rakotomanga (Fra) & E Roger-Vasselin (Fra) 7-6 (8-6) 7-6 (8-6) Italy bt France 2-1.

TODAY'S DIARY

(7.45pm unless stated)

Premier League

AFC Bournemouth v Tottenham (7.30).....
Brentford v Sunderland (7.30)................
Burnley v Man Utd (8.15)......................
(Live on Sky Sports Premier League)
Crystal Palace v Aston Villa (7.30)..........
Everton v Wolverhampton (7.30).............
Fulham v Chelsea (7.30)........................
(Live on Sky Sports Football)
Man City v Brighton (7.30).....................
(Live on Sky Sports Main Event)
Newcastle v Leeds (8.15).......................

CRICKET

First Twenty20 International: Sri Lanka v Pakistan (Dambulla, 1.30pm).

ICE HOCKEY

Elite League: Dundee Stars v Belfast Giants.

SNOOKER

WST BetVictor Championship League Snooker (Mattioli Arena, Leicester, England).

CAPITAL STRAINS

Areola shocker hands it to Forest as Hammers slip further into the relegation mire

WEST HAM 1
Murillo 13 og
N FOREST 2
Dominguez 55, Gibbs-White 89 pen

BY **PATRICK AUSTEN-HARDY**

WEST HAM let another lead slip to slide further into the relegation mire in a costly late defeat to Nuno Espirito Santo's former side Nottingham Forest.

The loss extends the Hammers' winless run to nine matches and leaves them seven points deep in the relegation zone.

With Sean Dyche's side perched in-between the Hammers and those dreaded dotted lines, this was a vital six-pointer in the relegation battle, despite there being 17 matches left to play.

Nuno's final fixture before his sacking by Forest was a 3-0 home defeat to Graham Potter's West Ham. The man who scored the third goal, Callum Wilson, was absent amid reports the east Londoners are about to cancel his contract.

Instead, it was January arrival, Taty Castellanos, a £25.2million signing from Lazio, who led the line, while fellow post-Christmas arrival Pablo Felipe – a £22m purchase from Portuguese side Gil Vincente – started on the bench.

Castellanos began with a wonderful faint, reverse touch to Crysencio Summerville which sent the Dutchman in behind the backline, but his effort was straight at keeper Matz Sels.

Neco Williams almost gave Forest the lead with a curling effort from 25-yards, but Alfonse Areola flew across his goal and clawed it out from under the top corner.

But it was one of Nuno's former Forest players who gave the Hammers the lead. Summerville's vicious, in-swinging corner zipped off the head of Tomas Soucek and deflected in off Forest defender Murillo.

Soucek twirled around in celebration, but it was an obvious own goal on the Brazilian's part.

In the east end, an early lead is

1-1 Dominguez flicks the ball home from a corner to put the visitors level

1-2

BOTTOM FOUR

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
N Forest	21	6	3	12	21	34	21
West Ham	21	3	5	13	22	43	14
Burnley	20	3	3	14	20	39	12
Wolves	20	1	3	16	14	40	6

no guarantee of a victory, with Nuno's side dropping 12 points from winning positions before Forest's visit – the run has now extended to 15!

In their home defeat to Aston Villa and their draw with Brighton, the Irons took the lead twice and still left with one point out of a possible six.

The last time Nuno (left), or anybody else at West Ham, had seen the east Londoners keep a Premier League clean sheet was the victory away to Forest back in September.

West Ham thought they had doubled their lead after half-time through Summerville's sumptuous half-volley, but a VAR intervention spotted Castellanos in an offside position in the build-up.

Minutes later Forest (boss Sean Dyche, inset) were level. Elliot Anderson's in-swinging corner was met by Dominguez, who sent a looping header into the far corner.

Forest keeper Sels spilled a Kyle Walker-Peters effort into Castellanos' path, but the shot-stopper got up in time to save the Argentine's rebound.

With few chances being created, a draw felt inevitable. But disappointment invaded the London Stadium again as it has so many times. Areola (right) went to punch a free-kick away, but ended up hitting Morgan Gibbs-White in the face instead.

Referee Tony Harrington was sent to the VAR monitor and, after a short review, he pointed to the spot. Gibbs-White sent Areola the wrong way to plunge the Hammers deep into the relegation zone.

It's been a perilous time to be a Premier League manager this week, and with West Ham now two victories and a draw away from merely levelling Forest's points tally, the pressure must surely be building on Nuno.

O'Neill's focused on short term at Celtic

MARTIN O'NEILL admits he does not know if he would "have the energy" to stay on as Celtic boss past the end of the season.

The 73-year-old (right) is back following the sacking of Wilfried Nancy, 33 days after making way for the Frenchman following an interim spell in which he won seven out of eight matches.

O'Neill, when asked if he would feel like staying on should the campaign finish on a positive, said on talkSPORT: "I can't see that for a start and I genuinely can't. I don't know whether I would have the energy.

"I will just put everything into it now for these next couple of months."

Celtic lost six out of eight matches under Nancy and are now six points behind Hearts.

"It will be very, very difficult. We are behind," O'Neill said on Celtic's title hopes.

VALE BRING IN BRADY

PORT VALE have appointed Jon Brady as their new manager.

Brady replaces Darren Moore with the club sat bottom of the League One table, 10 points from safety with half the season to go.

The 50-year-old Australian has been out of work since leaving Northampton in December 2024.

Vale chief executive Matt Hancock said: "Jon is someone who we believe can make a real difference here in both the short and long term, and he will have our full support as we focus on achieving our objectives this season."

Baggies axe Mason after wretched run

WEST BROM have sacked head coach Ryan Mason after slipping to 18th in the Championship.

Monday's stoppage-time loss at Leicester was their sixth defeat in eight matches.

Assistant head coach Nigel Gibbs and first team coach/head of performance Sam Pooley will also leave, with first-team coach James Morrison taking over on an interim basis.

"The club would like to place on record its thanks to Ryan, Nigel and Sam for their efforts and wishes all three the very best for the future," Albion said in a statement.

Mason (left) signed a three-year contract as West Brom head coach in June last year having joined them from Tottenham, where he was assistant to Ange Postecoglou.

The 34-year-old also twice coached the Spurs first team on an interim basis.

FOOTBALL LATEST

● MANCHESTER CITY prospect Jahmai Simpson-Pusey will spend the rest of the season on loan with Cologne after cutting short a disappointing spell with Celtic. The defender, 20, clocked only 64 minutes of action for the Glasgow club since the summer, leading to the termination of the deal. "The move to Cologne is a fresh start for me, and one I'm really looking forward to," Simpson-Pusey said on Cologne's website.

● **BIRMINGHAM boss Chris Davies has been fined £2,000 for misconduct following his dismissal during the Championship draw with Southampton. Davies was sent from the bench by referee Matt Donohue shortly after Cameron Archer's 71st-minute equaliser for the visitors in a 1-1 draw. He was later charged with misconduct and, having admitted the offence, has now been sanctioned.**

● SUNDERLAND have confirmed that Timothee Pembele has joined Le Havre AC on loan until the end of the season.

'Ty needs to find answers'

Everton v Wolves
Tonight, 7.30pm

BY **JOE THOMAS**

DAVID MOYES says Tyler Dibling will have to start figuring out himself why he is being substituted after the teenager was hooked at half-time against Brentford.

Dibling, 19, was replaced during Sunday's 4-2 defeat as Moyes ripped up his game plan after a torrid first half.

It was the second time in just four Premier League starts that Dibling (above) was taken off at the break.

Moyes said: "When he's come on to the field we are looking for a bit more.

"Tyler needs to keep improving, doing what he's doing better and we'll see where he goes."

Dibling is likely to start tonight against Wolves, given Iliman Ndiaye remains at the Africa Cup of Nations with Senegal, while Kiernan Dewsbury-Hall and Carlos Alcaraz remain injured.

But Moyes said: "In the main I will [speak to players about an early withdrawal] but I didn't do this time, because I've done it a couple of times and I want him to start realising he's not going to get an explanation for every time.

"He's going to have to work it out for himself sometimes."

Wolves boss Rob Edwards has seen a "bounce" around the club after they finally celebrated their first win of the season.

Wolves ended a record-worst start with Saturday's 3-0 win against West Ham, which came days after a 1-1 draw at Manchester United.

While relegation still looks nailed on, Edwards is enjoying the mood lift.

"What we've seen in the last couple of weeks is more belief," he said.

"There's been more of a bounce around because people can see a little bit more progression."

Everton (probable) Pickford; O'Brien, Tarkowski, Keane, Mykolenko; Garner, Armstrong; Dibling, Rohl, Grealish; Beto.
Wolves (probable): Sa; S Bueno, Mosquera, Krejci; Tchatchoua, Arias, J Gomes, Mane, H Bueno; Arokodare, Larsen.
Referee: Tom Kirk.

PEP: UNLUCKY RUBEN WAS ON COURSE

BY **ALEX JAMES** AND **SIMON BAJKOWSKI**

PEP GUARDIOLA feels that sacked Manchester United boss Ruben Amorim was not far away from constructing a team capable of challenging for the title.

Amorim was axed on Monday after 14 months in charge with United sixth.

Guardiola, whose Manchester City side face Brighton tonight, said: "Like Enzo [Maresca], he [Amorim] is a top manager. I wish Ruben all the best in the future." Guardiola (right) added: "Normally if you don't get results it doesn't matter the past or the present. They hire you with a perspective for your ideas and you are sacked for results. Sometimes you need a process and time.

"At United, they draw three games at home - against Everton who had 10 against 11 for 70 minutes, against Bournemouth and Wolves. They could have been close to Arsenal. The gaps are so small and now you see United have had a lot of absences like we have right now and it's difficult with players at the Africa Cup of Nations and important players not available."

Guardiola has ruled out a January spree to solve their latest injury crisis after centre-back Ruben Dias was ruled out for up to six weeks with a hamstring problem. City were already planning to sign Bournemouth winger Antoine Semenyo but the boss insists there will not be a repeat of last winter's £175million splurge despite being down to just 13 fit outfield players.

Man City (probable): Donnarumma; Nunes, Khusanov, Ake, O'Reilly; Gonzalez, Reijnders; Bernardo, Foden, Doku; Haaland.
Brighton (probable): Verbruggen; Veltman, Dunk, Van Hecke, Kadioglu; Gruda, Ayari; Gomez, Rutter, Mitoma; Kostoulas.
Referee: Thomas Bramall.

ROARING FORTIES

MAN CITY v BRIGHTON
Premier League: KO 7.30pm

Seagulls veteran Milner set to join elite club with just four other members

BY **RICHARD LEWIS**

WHEN James Milner replaced Jason Wilcox in the final minutes of an astonishing Premier League match at Upton Park on November 10, 2002, he was a teenager living every schoolboy's dream.

Tonight, 8,459 days later, he is set to join an elite club.

Milner celebrated his 40th birthday last Sunday and this evening, at the home where he twice won the title, he could become just the fifth outfield player of his age to appear in the Premier League.

He needs no introduction or plaudits, so let his manager Fabian Hurzeler tell us all we need to know about where he sits as a football legend.

"If you see him working, you can understand how it is possible," said Brighton boss Hurzeler yesterday. "It's incredible what he's capable of doing for his age.

"He's a role model for every young player. He's a role model for every person in the world because he's working so hard, he's so professional, he's so disciplined.

"He's thinking football and everything in what he's doing is taking care of his body and his team-mates and being a real leader."

UPTON SPARK Teen Milner makes his Leeds debut versus West Ham

Milner's debut as a 16-year-old was in Leeds' 4-3 win at West Ham, wearing the No.38 shirt and starting out on a career where he won the Champions League at Liverpool in 2019, a season before he won the Premier League title having twice been part of that domestic glory with Manchester City. From Leeds he moved to Newcastle, then Aston Villa, City, Liverpool and now to Brighton, where this landmark moment will arrive. It might be off the bench, as it was in the 80th minute of Saturday's 2-0 defeat of Burnley, but when it happens, history will be with him.

It will be his 650th Premier League game – only three behind Gareth Barry's record

Milner is set to follow Teddy Sheringham, Ryan Giggs, Kevin Phillips and Gordon Strachan as the four outfield players to hit 40 in the Premier League – and to add to the occasion, it will be his 650th appearance in the competition.

And, equally, it would leave him just three behind Gareth Barry's all-time record.

Brighton go to the Etihad after ending a six-game winless run by beating the struggling Clarets and Hurzeler is unbeaten in three games against Pep Guardiola's City, having won twice at home with one away draw.

He said: "In some phases we were a little bit lucky against City, but overall I also want us to have the belief that we want to win, and how we stand as a club that we are not afraid to play the big teams."

Full-back Mats Wieffer remains out with a toe injury and winger Yankuba Minteh is also likely to be missing again after suffering a dead leg in the 2-2 away draw against West Ham last week.

STILL FLYING Veteran Milner taking on the Hammers for the Seagulls

A GOLDEN OLDIE

James Milner in the Premier League

	Played	Starts	Mins	Goals	Assists
Leeds	48	28	2,887	5	0
Newcastle	94	72	6,485	6	8
Aston Villa	100	95	8,475	12	28
Man City	147	89	8,448	13	25
Liverpool	230	135	12,852	19	26
Brighton	30	16	1,244	1	3

FORTY POWERS

There have been 14 keepers to have played aged 40+ but Milner will be just the fifth outfielder - Teddy Sheringham (24 games), Gordon Strachan (6), Ryan Giggs (6) and Kevin Phillips (4).

COMPROMISE Le Bris is happy despite four draws in a row

Le Bris draws confidence as he makes a point to Black Cats

Brentford v Sunderland
Tonight, 7.30pm

REGIS LE BRIS hopes Sunderland can turn their "consistency" into wins as they look to maintain an unbeaten Premier League run.

The Black Cats are eighth and on a five-game unbeaten streak. But they have drawn their past four matches since winning the Wear-Tyne derby last month.

Head coach Le bris, whose side have nine draws from 20 league matches, said: "It's a good run, we showed great consistency and this good level of play across different scenarios.

"Probably we want to turn this consistency into more wins, because I know we have this ambition within the squad, but so far it's a strong platform to evolve and to improve. But this league is so demanding that sometimes one point is good, it's really good."

Brentford boss Keith Andrews hopes "big player" Vitaly Janelt stays beyond this term.

The German midfielder, 27, has made more than 200 Bees appearances, but is out of contract at the end of June. "The ball is in any player's court when their contract is running out," said Andrews.

"I'm very hopeful he will be here next season."

Brentford (probable): Kelleher; Kayode, Ajer, Collins, Henry; Yarmoliuk, Janelt; Jensen, Damsgaard, Schade; Thiago.
Sunderland (probable): Roefs; Hume, Mukiele, Alderete, Cirkin; Geertruida, Xhaka; Mayenda, Le Fee, Adingra; Brobbey.
Referee: Matthew Donohue.

FULHAM v CHELSEA
Premier League: KO 7.30pm

Relationship with club's top brass key to Rosenior's Bridge Blueprint

BY **BOBBY VINCENT**

FROM Chelsea's point of view, it was a relative no-brainer who would be replacing Enzo Maresca.

After the dramatic break up between the Blues and their former head coach was announced on New Year's Day, the west London club had already started contingency planning.

A few options were considered but the one that always seemed to stand out was Liam Rosenior.

Having been at Strasbourg, who are owned by BlueCo, for just under 18 months, Rosenior has already worked with the sporting directors and ownership group.

The 41-year-old coach has a close working relationship with Paul Winstanley and Laurence Stewart, Chelsea's two sporting directors, and that played an enormous role in the club's decision.

Rosenior, who has signed a five-and-a-half year contract – with the option of a further 12 months – at Stamford Bridge, is seen as someone who has the leadership qualities and personality to lead the young squad.

The former Hull manager has a similar playing style to Maresca (left) – controlled in possession with defensive stability, with Chelsea chiefs believing that will help make the transition smoother.

Rosenior likes his players to be connected both on and off the pitch and is understood to be keen on building a similar connection with the supporters.

The former England Under-21 full-back wants to embrace the Chelsea fan base in order to get everyone involved and use the atmosphere at Stamford Bridge as a weapon. Rosenior said: "I believe deeply in teamwork, unity, togetherness and working together for one another, and those values will be at the heart of everything we do. They will be the foundation of our success.

"I am excited to work with this extremely talented group of players and staff, to build strong connections on and off the pitch, and to create an environment where everyone feels united and driven by the same goal.

"There is a real hunger to win, and I will give everything, every single day, to help this team compete and win at the very highest level to make everyone connected and proud to be part of Chelsea Football Club."

Part of what started the Maresca downfall at Chelsea was the former head coach's relationship with the club's medical department, which became fractured when the Italian ignored expert advice on his usage of players.

Senior figures believe Rosenior has a strong record of working within a similar structure and are confident he can get the best out of his new players in that regard.

Chelsea's interim head coach Calum McFarlane will take charge for this evening's trip to Fulham and is looking forward to working closely with Rosenior.

"I think it will be a smooth transition," said McFarlane. "The lads are in a really good place. I've mentioned loads of times the level they have shown this year and it is just about getting that on the most consistent basis possible.

"Liam is really excited and we have to back him fully, so he will come in and it will be a really smooth transition."

Fulham (probable): Leno; Diop, Andersen, Cuenca; Castagne, Lukic, Berge, Robinson; Wilson, Kevin; Jimenez.

Chelsea (probable): Sanchez; James, Fofana, Chalobah, Cucurella; Caicedo, Santos; Palmer, Fernandez, Neto; Delap.

Referee: Peter Bankes.

LIAM TAKES INSIDE TRACK

GETTING FANS ONSIDE Rosenior wants to turn the atmosphere at Stamford Bridge into a weapon

'Teamwork, unity and togetherness will be the foundation of our success'

CUP WINNERS Blues sporting directors Winstanley (left) and Stewart were key to Rosenior's arrival

Boss out to protect 'unique spirit'

FROM BACK PAGE

surprise. If I didn't think I was ready, I would not have accepted the job.

"I've had interest from Champions League clubs that I've turned down because I wanted to be here."

Rosenior, who will watch from the stands at Craven Cottage as Chelsea take on Fulham this evening, has vowed to "protect" his new club's identity while he set his sights on adding more silverware.

He said: "This is a club with a unique spirit and a proud history of winning trophies.

"My job is to protect that identity and create a team that reflects these values in every game we play as we continue winning trophies. To be entrusted with this role means the world to me."

Calum McFarlane will take the team for the derby against the Cottagers tonight and Rosenior will take his first training session tomorrow, ahead of his first game in charge, against Charlton in the FA Cup third round on Saturday night.

McFARLANE In charge for tonight's game

MAKE OUR MARC

MARCO SILVA has called on Fulham to write a new chapter in their rivalry with neighbours Chelsea at Craven Cottage tonight.

The Cottagers secured a hard-earned point on Sunday in their 2-2 draw against Liverpool.

Fulham aim to extend a five-match unbeaten Premier League run and boss Silva said: "Now it is another opportunity for us to enjoy, to embrace a big challenge with our fans to play a derby like a derby should be played.

"It is a new game, a new story. I don't want anyone to think about the past. We have to look for the future - and what is going to be most important is the next one."

Ryan Sessegnon could return to the squad after a hamstring injury.

SUPPORT Venkatesham

CEO's Art of timing is helpful for Frank

Bournemouth v Tottenham
Tonight, 7.30pm

BY **ALASDAIR GOLD**

THOMAS FRANK believes Tottenham CEO Vinai Venkatesham's experiences at Arsenal have benefited him in gaining patience from a club that has rarely shown much.

Frank has come under pressure from sections of the fanbase after two wins from 11 league games before tonight's trip to Bournemouth.

But having been a club that has gone through managers like hot dinners in the past under former chairman Daniel Levy, there is a new man at the top in Venkatesham.

He was among the powerful figures at Arsenal who showed patience in Mikel Arteta through some slow early years and trusted the Spaniard needed the time to build.

Six years on and the Gunners are six points clear at the top of the table and Frank believes he is benefiting from Venkatesham's experience.

Frank said: "Definitely [that has informed the way he acts]. He also knows what good looks like and how unfortunately it can take time. That's definitely beneficial, because he understands the journey we're on."

Cherries head coach Andoni Iraola accepts Antoine Semenyo could make his last appearance for the club tonight.

Semenyo, who turns 26 today, is set to join Manchester City, after they met his £65million release clause.

Iraola said: "If you ask me personally, 'what do you think?' With all the noise, I think it could be the last game."

Bournemouth (probable): Petrovic; Jimenez, Hill, Senesi, Truffert; Cook, Scott; Brooks, Tavernier, Semenyo; Evanilson.

Tottenham (probable) Vicario; Porro, Romero, Van de Ven, Spence; Palhinha, Bergvall; Kolo Muani, Xavi, Odobert; Richarlison.

Referee: Darren England.

DECISION TIME Oliver Glasner will step up contract talks this month

OLIVER'S FINAL COUNTDOWN

CRYSTAL PALACE v ASTON VILLA

Premier League: Kick-off 7.30pm, Sky Sports

BY **NEIL McLEMAN**

OLIVER GLASNER is to "intensify" talks about a new Crystal Palace deal this month before making a "final decision" about his future.

But the Austrian insisted a long contract does not guarantee staying at a club – and claimed new record £35m signing Brennan Johnson may be sold this summer for a "massive fee".

Glasner, 51, is on Manchester United's radar as he stands to be out of contract and available for free at the end of the season.

The Europa League champion with Eintracht Frankfurt is a proven winner and a good communicator.

He also deploys a variation of the 3-4-3 system used by Ruben Amorim, though whether that is a plus point for United is now debatable. Palace are also without a win in seven games.

Before hosting Aston Villa tonight, the Eagles boss said: "I think in the next weeks we will intensify the talks.

"Everyone gets three days off after Macclesfield (in the FA Cup on Saturday) and then we have to target four regular weeks and in those weeks we will intensify the talks and I expect to find a final decision.

"The length of a contract in these times doesn't say anything about your future.

"How long does Brennan's contract last? Four and a half years? He scores now, 12 goals until summer, a big club comes, pays a massive fee and he leaves."

The Eagles have sold Michael Olise and Eberechi Eze in the last two summer windows and Glasner admitted they are likely to lose captain Marc Guehi either this month or at the end of the season.

"I'm not so naive not to know that if a massive offer comes from Manchester City and Marc wants to do it, it will happen," he said.

But he added: "Believe me, nothing that happens in the transfer window, nothing, affects my decision, nothing. In both directions."

PALACE (3-4-2-1): Henderson; Canvot, Lacroix, Guehi; Devenny, Hughes, Wharton, Mitchell; Pino, Johnson; Mateta.

VILLA (4-2-3-1): Martinez; Cash, Konsa, Lindelof, Maatsen; Kamara, Tielemans; Sancho, McGinn, Rogers; Watkins.

REFEREE: Tom Kirk.

Vic is Juan to watch

BY **JOHN TOWNLEY**

UNAI EMERY called ex-Manchester United star Juan Mata to get the lowdown on his old team-mate Victor Lindelof before signing the Swedish defender on a free transfer.

Lindelof (inset) joined Villa in the summer and has started their last six games in the absence of Pau Torres and Tyrone Mings.

Emery said: "I coached Mata in Spain. He is a fantastic guy and an intelligent guy.

"I called him to speak about the possibility of signing Lindelof. I asked about him as a player, a person, and his commitment.

"Everything he told me, we are watching. Fantastic guy. Very professional."

Torres and Mings are back training, but Ross Barkley and Amadou Onana are still out ahead of the trip to Crystal Palace tonight.

THE DAZ

FRIENDS UNITED Darren Fletcher with ex-boss Ruben Amorim

BURNLEY v MAN UNITED

Premier League: KO 8.15pm, Sky Sports

BY **TYRONE MARSHALL**

DARREN FLETCHER sought the blessing of Sir Alex Ferguson before taking the role as Manchester United's interim head coach – and he has already reached out to sacked predecessor Ruben Amorim.

Fletcher, 41, revealed the first phone call he made after being offered the role on Monday morning was to his former boss Fergie, 84, seeking the legendary United manager's guidance on whether he should accept it.

He spent 20 years at Old Trafford, from the academy to the first team, with 18 of those years under the guidance of Ferguson, who remains a regular at United games and at Carrington.

Fergie was at the 1-1 draw with Leeds on Sunday, which proved to be Amorim's final game in charge, and when Fletcher called he echoed the sentiments his ex-midfielder had about the task at hand.

Fletcher said: "I don't like to make any major decisions or things without speaking to Sir Alex. That's something I have done since I've been at the club and since I've left the club and everything I do.

"I've got a really good relationship with Sir Alex, so he's probably the first person on the phone. I wanted to speak to him first. Ultimately, to get his blessing, to be perfectly honest with you, I think he deserves that respect.

"I wanted to run it by him, what he thought, and he was supportive of it. He echoed my thoughts, which I've always said: 'It's your job to do the best for Manchester United when you're an employee of the club'.

"It's amazing when he says something that I try and live and believe every day, so it was comforting for me for him to say that." Fletcher also tried to contact Amorim, who gave the Scot's 18-year-old son Jack his senior debut before United sacked him.

"I've reached out to him, I've not managed to make contact yet, but that's understandable," added Fletcher.

"He's obviously got a lot on his mind and I've been really busy so I've not had the chance to.

"He was great with me. Always good interactions and ultimately he's the manager who gave my son his debut as well. So as a father I've got a lot to thank him for.

"I've got a good relationship with Ruben, so I'm disappointed for him."

Fletcher has held talks with the players since replacing Amorim, including captain Bruno Fernandes, to gauge the mood in the squad as well as one-on-ones with summer signings Matheus Cunha and Benjamin Sesko.

He is set to hold talks with the club's owners after taking charge of tonight's game at Burnley, which could possibly be extended further.

United have held talks with Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, Michael Carrick and Ruud van Nistelrooy but, at least for now, Fletcher is the man in the dugout.

Asked if he wanted the job beyond the trip to Turf Moor, Fletcher said: "Honestly, it is not what I have thought about. Focusing on Burnley. That discussion is for after the game.

"It has all happened so quickly, so all my concentration is on Burnley."

But he described taking charge of the first team as "surreal" and added: "It is an amazing honour to lead a Manchester United team, especially as it was not in my wildest dreams that would be something which could potentially happen.

"To lead out the team is an amazing honour and something I am really proud to do, but not in the circumstances I expected it to, so that is something which doesn't sit quite easy with me.

"But I have just got to think I have a job to do and I just have to lead the team and think of the great honour and pride in doing that."

BURNLEY (3-4-3): Dubravka; Ekdal, Esteve, Laurent; Walker, Ugochukwu, Florentino, Pires; Edwards, Broja, Anthony.

MAN UNITED (4-2-3-1): Lammens; Dalot, Heaven, Martinez, Shaw; Ugarte, Casemiro; Dorgu, Zirkzee, Cunha; Sesko.

REFEREE: Stuart Attwell.

HEIR TO THRONE Fletcher yesterday and (right) as Prem champ

PARKER ACCEPTS FANS' ANGER

SCOTT PARKER admits he can understand why supporters would call for his head as the Clarets prepare to face managerless Manchester United.

Burnley go into tonight's Premier League clash at Turf Moor with just two points from their last 11 games.

Boss Parker said: "I understand the disappointment of the supporters at this moment in time and I get that the finger will be firmly pointed at me.

"All I can say consistently, while I sit in this chair, is (my approach will be) one of just the utmost commitment and the utmost focus on us to try and be successful."

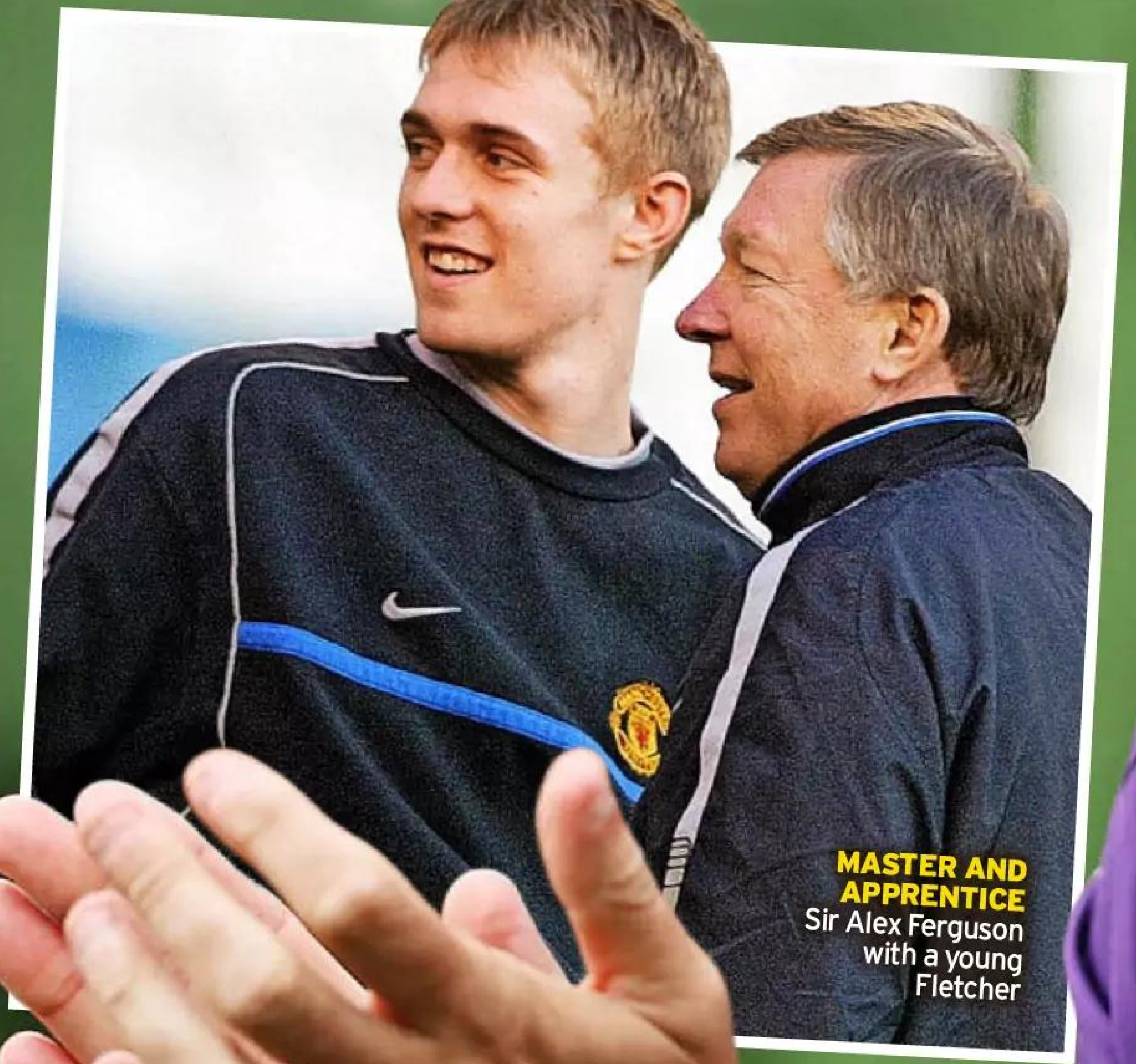
Parker (right) will hope to take advantage of the turmoil at Old Trafford after manager Ruben Amorim was sacked.

He added: "We've done a lot of work over the last 24 hours to try and navigate around how things could look for them."

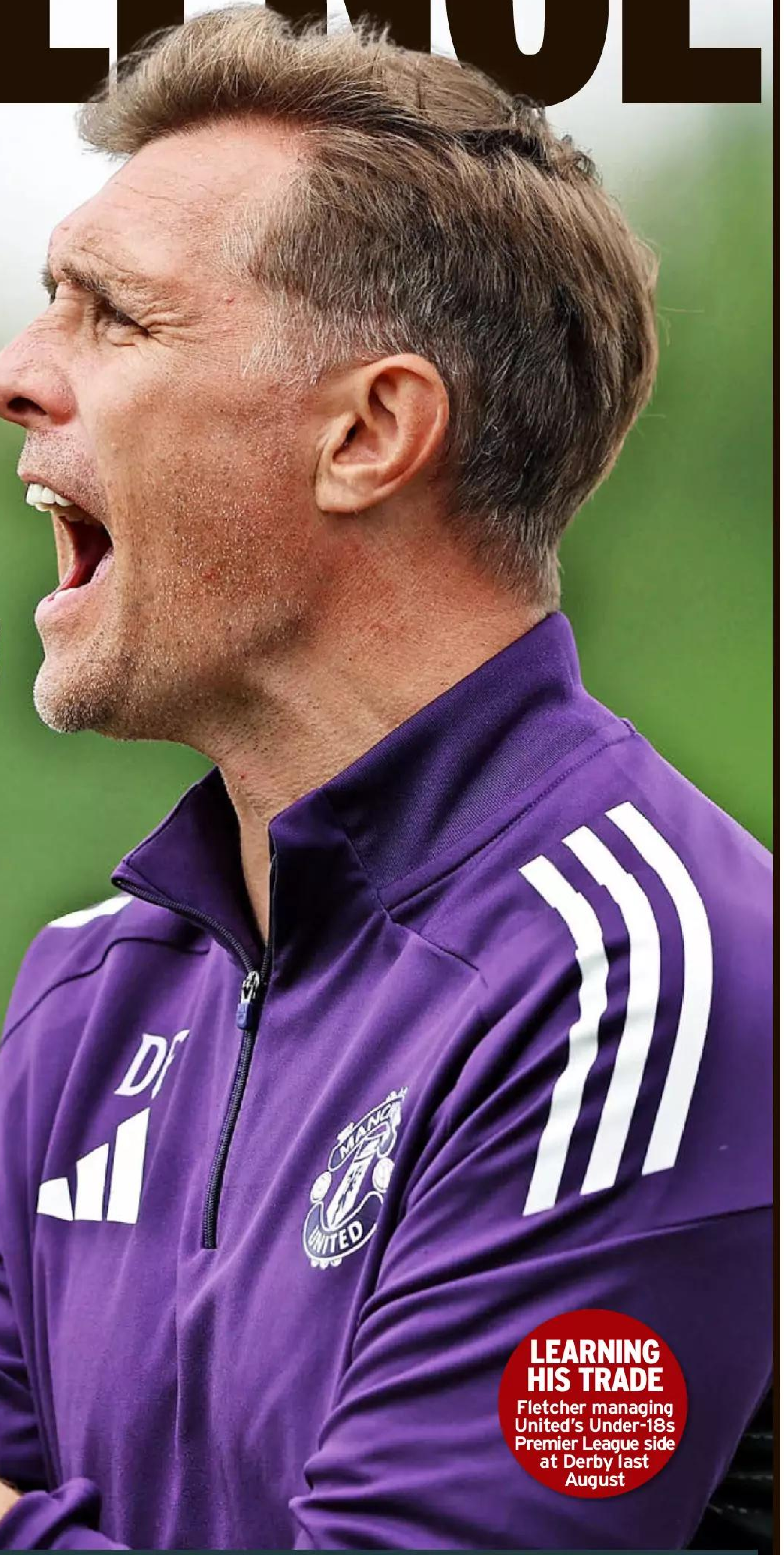
Josh Cullen is out until next season with cruciate ligament damage, but Hannibal Mejbri and Lyle Foster are back from AFCON.

CHALLENGE

Fletcher's hotline to Fergie as he looks to rise to occasion and clean up at Clarets



MASTER AND APPRENTICE Sir Alex Ferguson with a young Fletcher



LEARNING HIS TRADE Fletcher managing United's Under-18s Premier League side at Derby last August

LEGEND OLE IS READY TO GET BACK AT THE WHEEL

FROM BACK PAGE

which they will look to find a permanent successor.

Fletcher, 41, said ahead of tonight's trip to Burnley that he would hold further talks after the game, but United have also sounded out Solskjaer, Carrick and Van Nistelrooy over the job.

Solskjaer is emerging as the leading candidate, having made it clear he is desperate to return to Old Trafford, having been sacked in November 2021.

The Norwegian came in as interim boss to replace Jose Mourinho in December 2018 and engineered a significant upturn in fortunes, earning him the job on a permanent basis.

He guided United to finishes of third and second in two full seasons in charge, before a dramatic slump in his third campaign saw him dismissed. Solskjaer has more experience than Carrick, Fletcher and Van Nistelrooy and a win record of 54 per cent at United.

Carrick, 44, was on Solskjaer's staff and after the Norwegian was sacked he oversaw two wins and a draw from his three games in charge before leaving when Ralf Rangnick was hired. The former Manchester United midfielder has managed Middlesbrough and is available after leaving at the end of last term.

Van Nistelrooy's spell in charge began after he remained in place following the sacking of Erik ten Hag in October 2024, getting three wins and a draw from four games. He then had a brief spell at Leicester.

STAYING PUT Eddie Howe

Howe has zero Tyne for Man U

Newcastle v Leeds
KO: 8.15pm, Sky Sports
BY **LEE RYDER**

EDDIE HOWE has nailed his colours firmly to the mast at St James' Park in light of fresh links with Manchester United.

Howe was on a list of possible candidates after the sacking of Ruben Amorim and also won approval from Paul Scholes and Nicky Butt, who said they would give the Newcastle boss the thumbs up if he got the job.

United would be hit with an eight-figure compensation hurdle to snatch him from his current role on Tyneside.

But when asked if anything can tempt him away, Howe, whose side host Leeds tonight, said: "No, not at this current time. The most important thing for me is happiness in the role, happiness in the job. The relationships I have with the people around me.

"Now, that's not always been consistently good and things can change at any football club. But, at the moment, I am very happy."

NEWCASTLE (4-3-3): Pope; Miley, Thiaw, Schar, Hall; Joelinton, Tonali, Guimaraes; Barnes, Gordon, Wissa.
LEEDS (4-3-3): Perri; Justin, Bijol, Struijk, Gudmundsson; Stach, Ampadu, Tanaka; Aaronson, Calvert-Lewin, Okafor.
REFEREE: Michael Salisbury.

Far from finished

DANIEL FARKE says there is more to come from his Leeds side as they bid to extend their unbeaten run to eight matches at Newcastle tonight.

Boss Farke said: "I'm not surprised at all because I knew we were capable of delivering consistency.

"Nevertheless, it's impressive, as a promoted side. It's not that often that it happens. It's remarkable.

"Even the games before, there were many impressive performances and we were very unlucky.

"Very often we won each and every statistic, but, sadly, only one statistic matters: the scoreline."

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MILNER HITS 40 NOT OUT

GOLDEN OLDIE: PAGE 56

WEST HAM 1 NOTTINGHAM FOREST 2

Late penalty leaves Irons in deep trouble. Report: P54-55

Mor pain for Hammers as Forest cut Nuno adrift

SHUT OUT THE NOISE Gibbs-White kept his head to score vital winner

OLD BOYS' CLUB

Solskjaer tops the list as United also look at Fletcher, Van Nistelrooy and Carrick for interim role

DEVILS IN DETAIL Solskjaer is the leading candidate but (clockwise from top left) Van Nistelrooy, Fletcher and Carrick are also in the frame

BY **TYRONE MARSHALL**

OLE GUNNAR SOLSKJAER is the leading candidate to return to Manchester United in a caretaker role until the end of the season.

United have also held talks with Michael Carrick and Ruud van Nistelrooy – all three are former players who have had spells in charge of the first team.

Darren Fletcher will add to that number when he leads United out as interim head coach against Burnley at Turf Moor tonight and he has also held talks over the role.

United sacked head coach Ruben Amorim on Monday and are set to appoint a caretaker for the remainder of the season, after

TURN TO PAGE 59, COLUMN 2

ROSENIOR: I HAD TO SAY YES

BY **BOBBY VINCENT** AND **RYAN TAYLOR**

LIAM ROSENIOR has revealed that he could not turn down the chance to take over at Chelsea.

And that he rejected other jobs with Champions League clubs.

Rosenior, 41, was appointed as Chelsea's new head coach on a deal until 2032 as he replaces Enzo Maresca, who left the club on New Year's Day.

"There are certain moments in your life where you have decisions that you can't say no to," said Rosenior yesterday in Strasbourg before leaving the French club.

The deal was rubber-stamped soon after as Rosenior returns to English football following previous spells in charge at Derby and Hull.

Rosenior said: "This was not part of the plan [to leave now]. But it's here, and it's an opportunity I don't think many would turn down.

"When I was notified of the interest, it was a very nice

TURN TO P57, COLUMN 1

TAKING CHARGE Blues offer was 'nice surprise' to Rosenior

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3				1			2	
		1	4		2	3		5
	3			5			1	9
		6			9			8

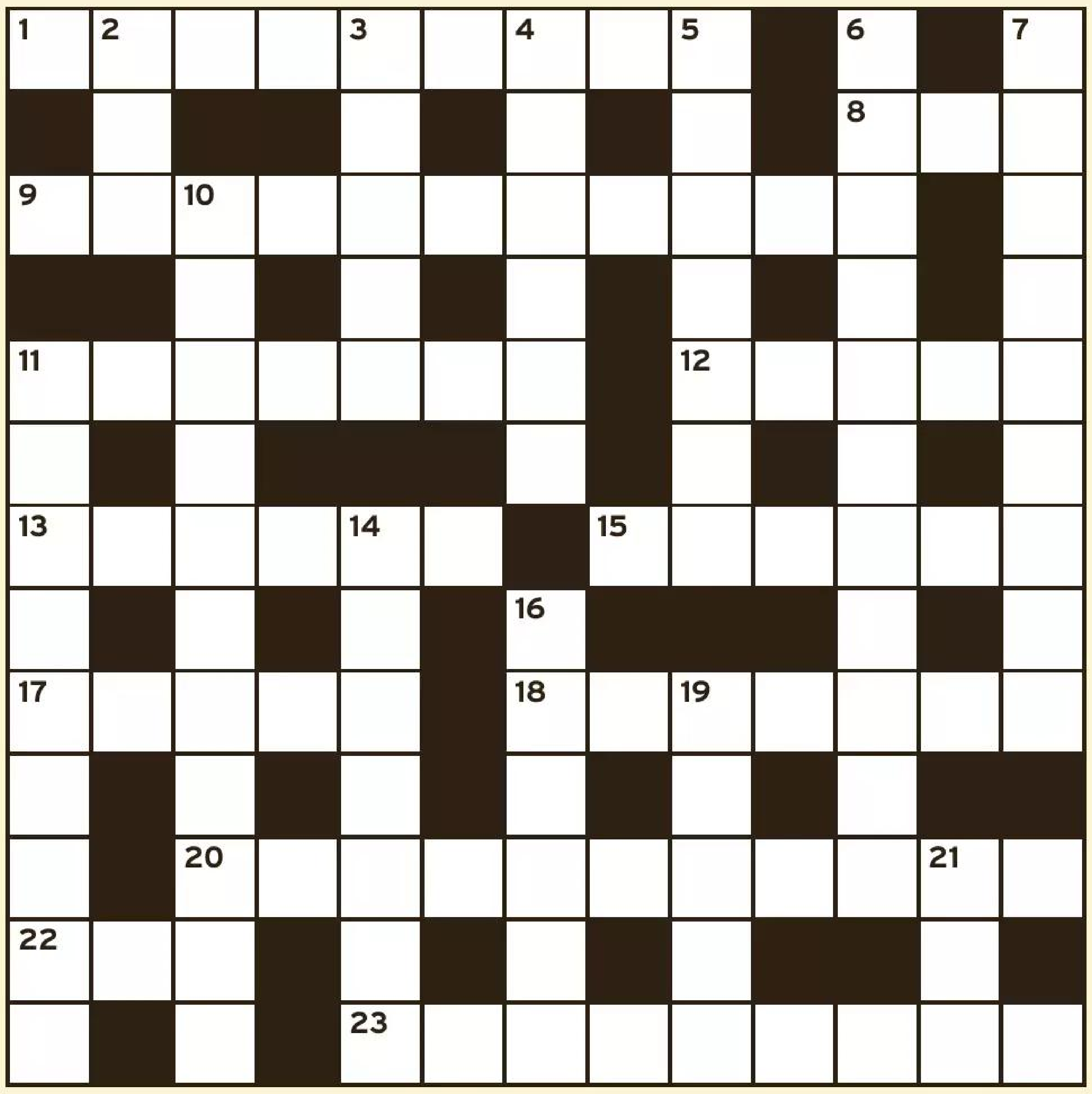
DIFFICULT

	1		5					3
3				8	9		6	
	6							
	2				7	3		
6		4				2		7
		3	2				5	
							4	
	4		6	9				2
8					5		9	

Extra clues:
0901 322 5609
**Calls cost 75p plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

Today's solution:
0907 181 2573
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

QUICK CROSSWORD



ACROSS
- **1** Parsimonious (9)
- **8** Plunder (3)
- **9** Wipe out (11)
- **11** Huge (7)
- **12** Animal track (5)
- **13** Sermonise (6)
- **15** Internal (6)
- **17** Retinue (5)
- **18** Designate (7)
- **20** Instructive (11)
- **22** Nothing (3)
- **23** Insipid (9)

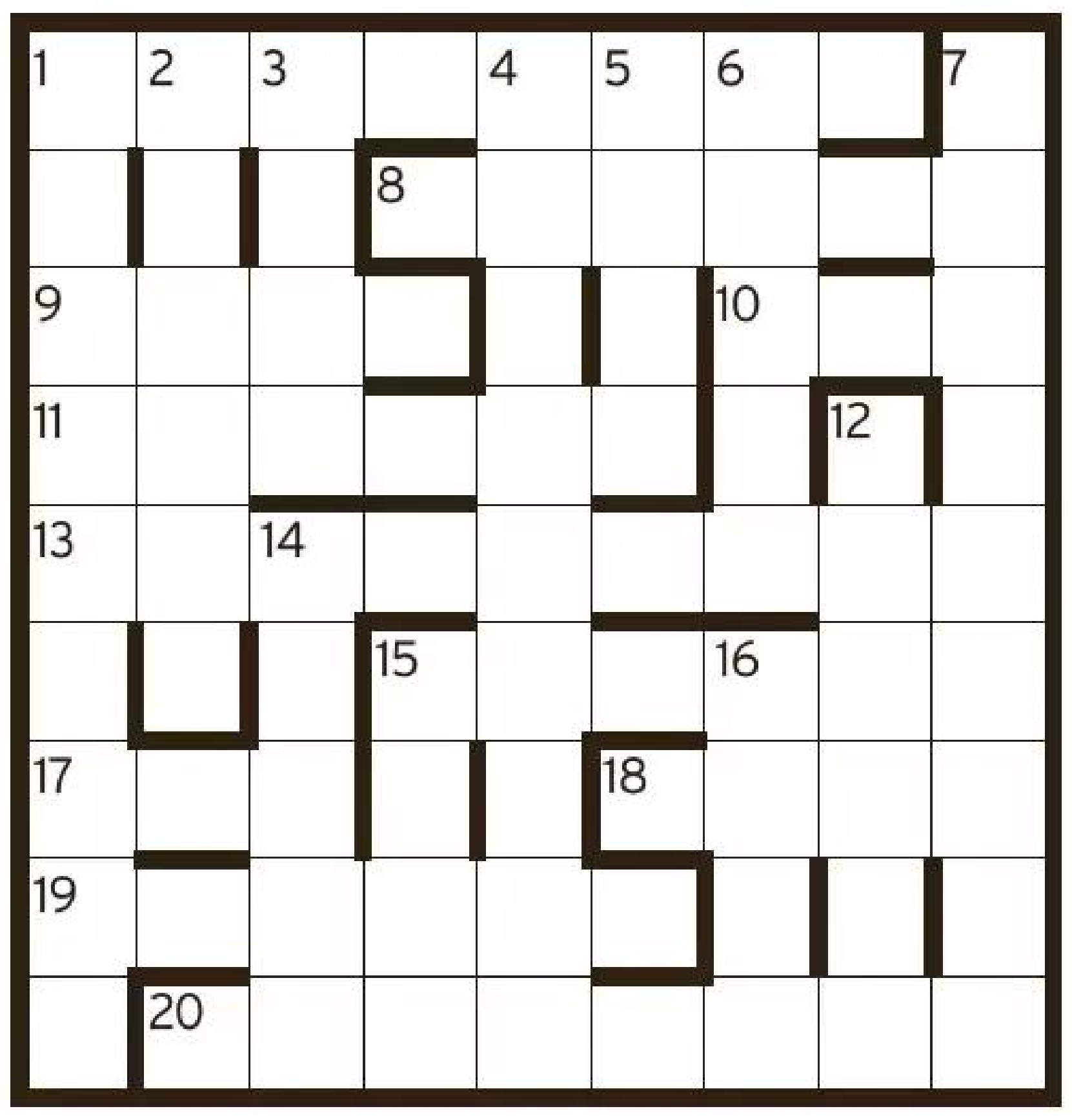
DOWN
- **2** Slack (3)
- **3** Lord (5)
- **4** Elevated (6)
- **5** Bond (7)
- **6** Foreboding (11)
- **7** Hateful (9)
- **10** In moderation (11)
- **11** Hasty (9)
- **14** Behaviour (7)
- **16** Vex (6)
- **19** Charge (5)
- **21** Donkey (3)

Solution tomorrow

Stuck on the puzzle? Call **0905 789 4188** to hear individual clues or the full solution

Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. Service provider Spoke Ltd - **Helpline 0333 202 3390*

SMALL CROSSWORD



ACROSS
- **1** Hinder (8)
- **8** Car storage place (6)
- **9** African river (4)
- **10** Police officer, informally (3)
- **11** Takes on or assumes (6)
- **13** Wombat, say (9)
- **15** Investigates closely (6)
- **17** Pen point (3)
- **18** Food shop (4)
- **19** Libyan port (6)
- **20** Atmosphere above a country (8)

DOWN
- **1** Decorative objects (9)
- **2** Relating to a woman getting married (6)
- **3** Grain store (4)
- **4** Usurp rota (anag.) (9)
- **5** Large vases (4)
- **6** Prickly plants (5)
- **7** Loathsome (9)
- **12** A Scottish language (6)
- **14** Jewish scholar (5)
- **15** Contented cat noise (4)
- **16** Second Greek letter (4)

Solution tomorrow

For today's solution call:
0907 181 2582
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

CROSS DOUBT

Target times: Average: **20 mins** Good: **16 mins** Excellent: **12 mins**

Stuck? Call for a clue
0901 322 5601
Halve your Target Time!

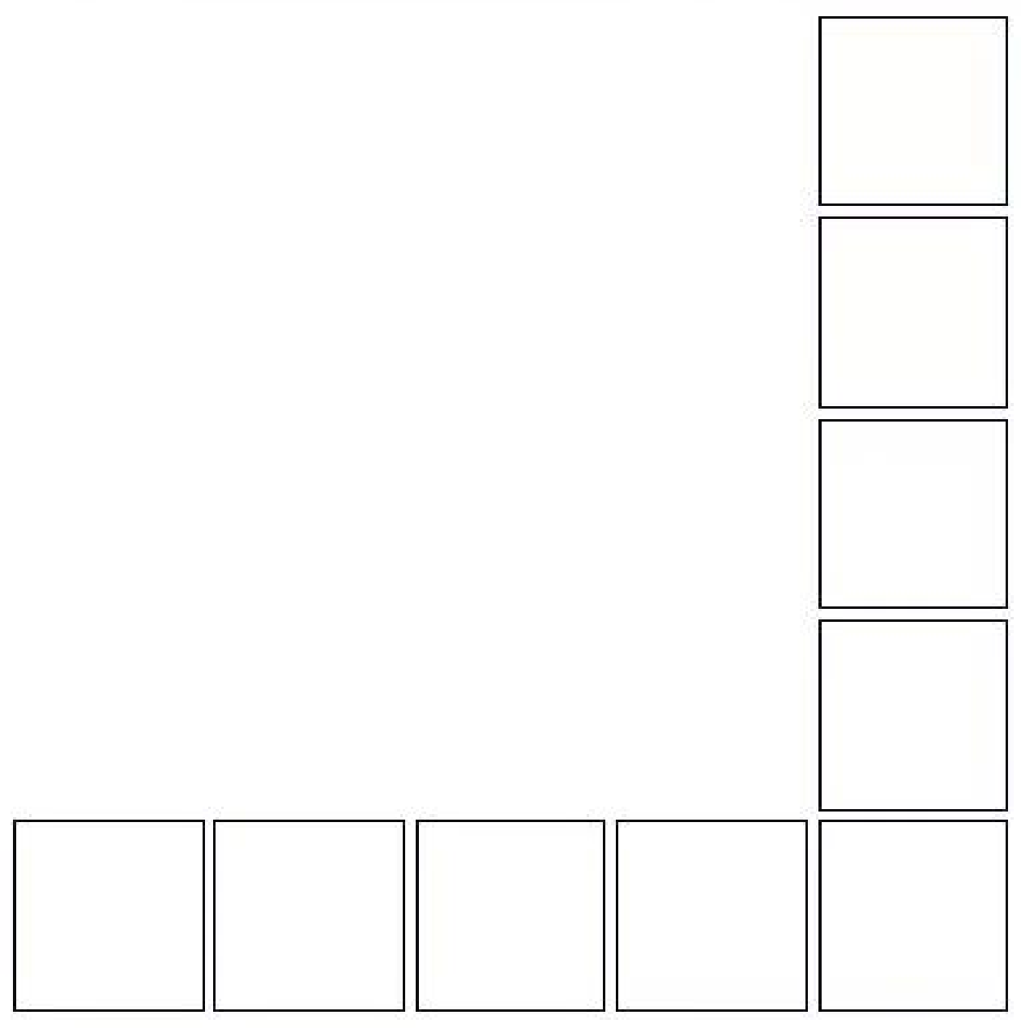
Today's solution
0901 322 5607
Both today's words in a moment!

**Calls cost 75p plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

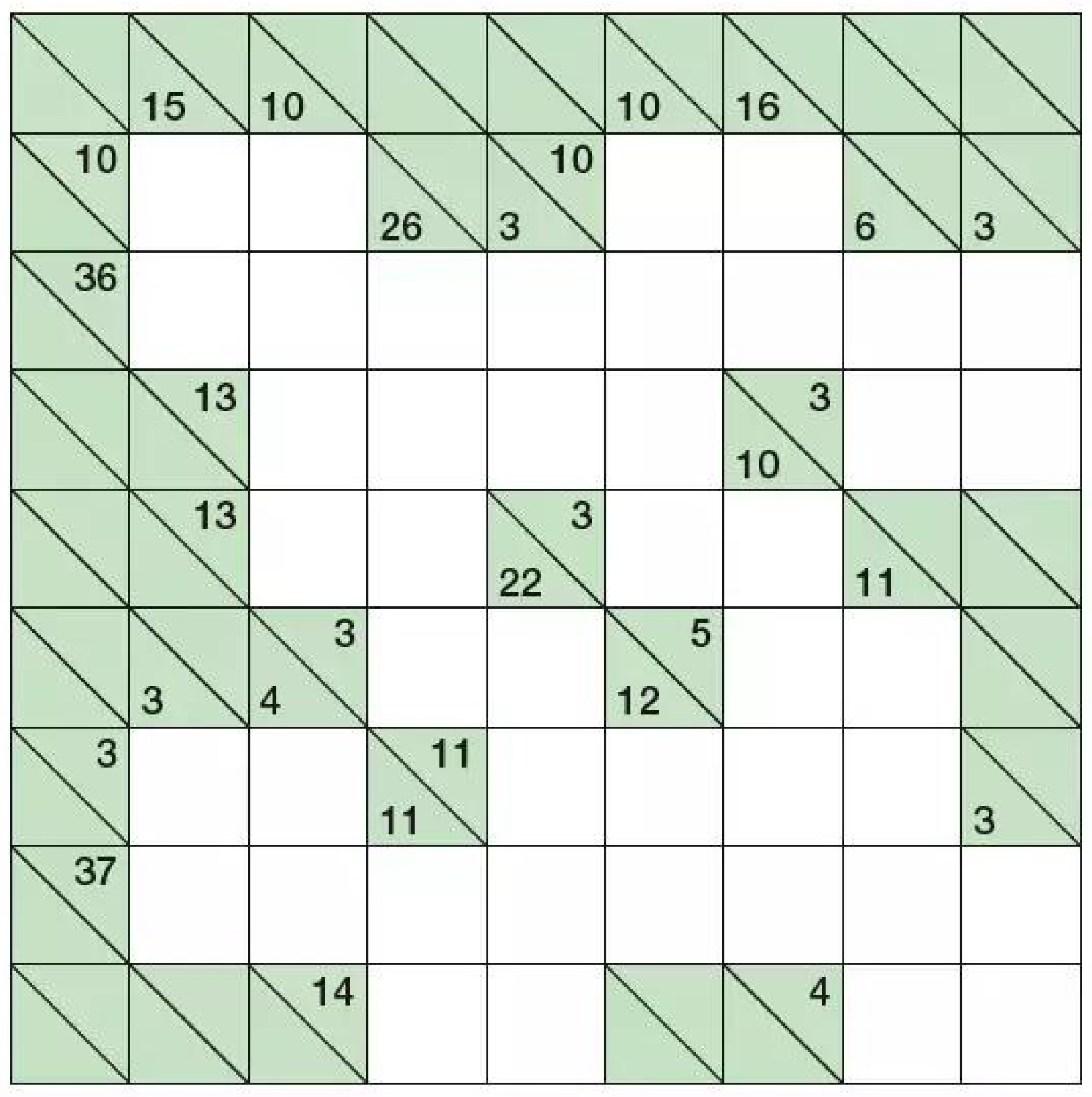
Can you make two common five-letter words from the nine letters given, using each letter only once? You can – but only if one letter features in both words in the squares on the right. There's at least one way to do it, and you have to have the right letter at the crossover – but which one is it?

See if you can find the answer within our target time. If you need help, ring our clue-line below to find out the crossover letter. Solution tomorrow

D L L M O R R S U



KAKURO



Fill each sequence of blank squares using the numbers 1-9. Each sequence – across and down – must total the number in the shaded box at the beginning or top of each line. A number may be repeated in each line but NOT in a sequence.

Solution tomorrow

Puzzles

QUIZWORD

ACROSS

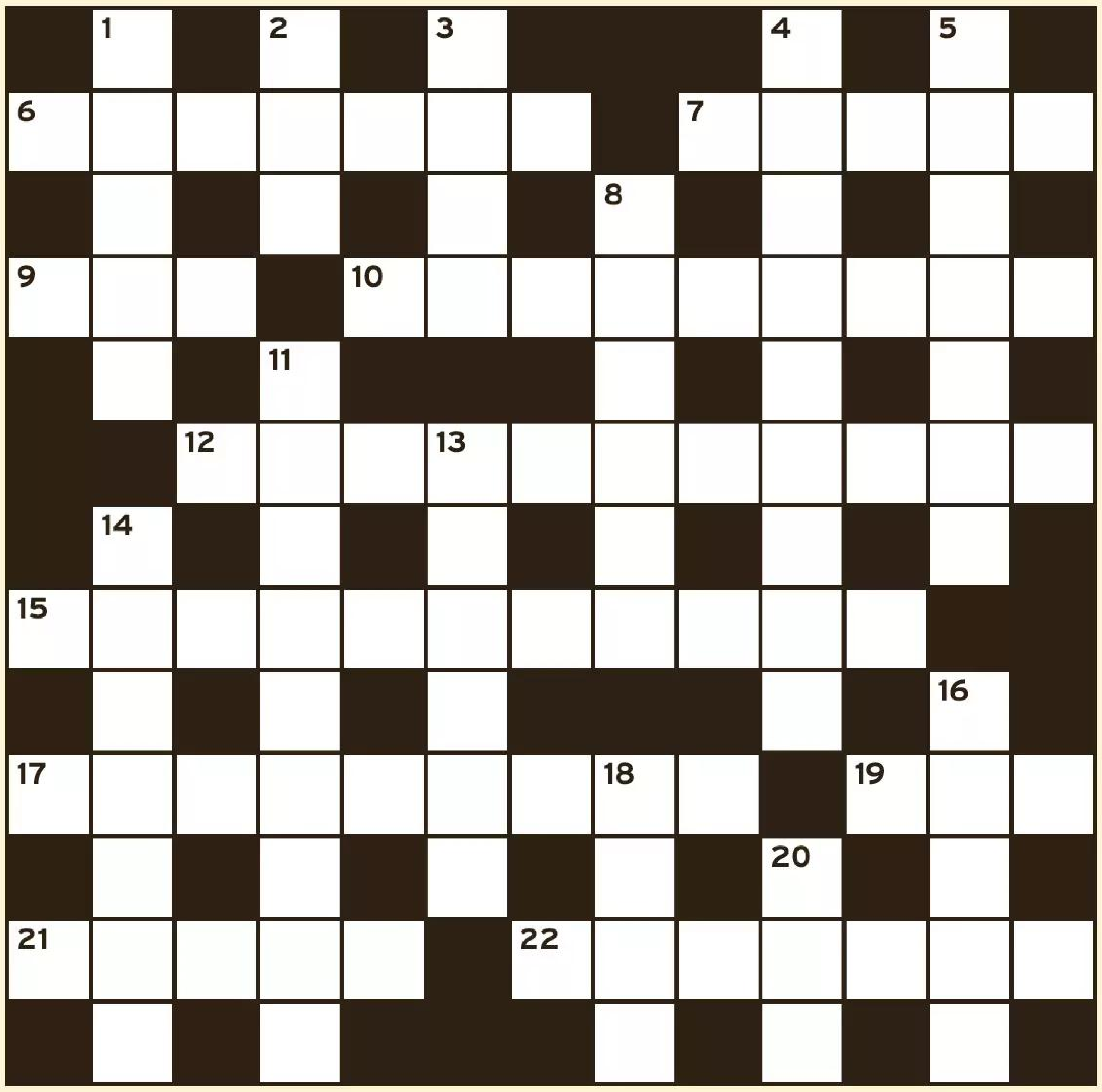
6 & 7 37th president of the US (7,5)
7 See 6
9 & 12 Graham Greene novel whose central character is James Wormold (3,3,2,6)
10 Tropical hard wood tree whose large orange-red fruit are edible when ripe (9)
12 See 9
15 1970 film starring Mick Jagger and James Fox (11)
17 Body spin in dancing on the toes or the ball of the foot (9)
19 Jean, also known as Hans, French artist whose works include Sculpture To Be Lost In The Forest (3)
21 Peter Mark, English physician and lexicographer who in 1852 published his Thesaurus Of English Words And Phrases (5)
22 West African republic whose capital is Dakar (7)

DOWN

1 & 16 1946 novel by Mervyn Peake (5,5)
2 1887 novel by H Rider Haggard (3)
3 Soft creamy white cheese similar to Camembert (4)
4 1980s television series that starred Don Johnson and Philip Michael Thomas (5,4)
5 University city in northern Italy on the northern flank of the Apennines (7)
8 Island in the Tyrrhenian Sea at the entrance to the Bay of Naples (6)
11 The ship that carried the Pilgrims from England to North America in 1620 (9)
13 Country in the Middle East whose flag features a Star of David (6)
14 The flesh of a deer used as food (7)
16 See 1
18 A unit of weight used in Asia weighing between one and two ounces (4)
20 Insect of the family Apoidea (3)

Solution tomorrow

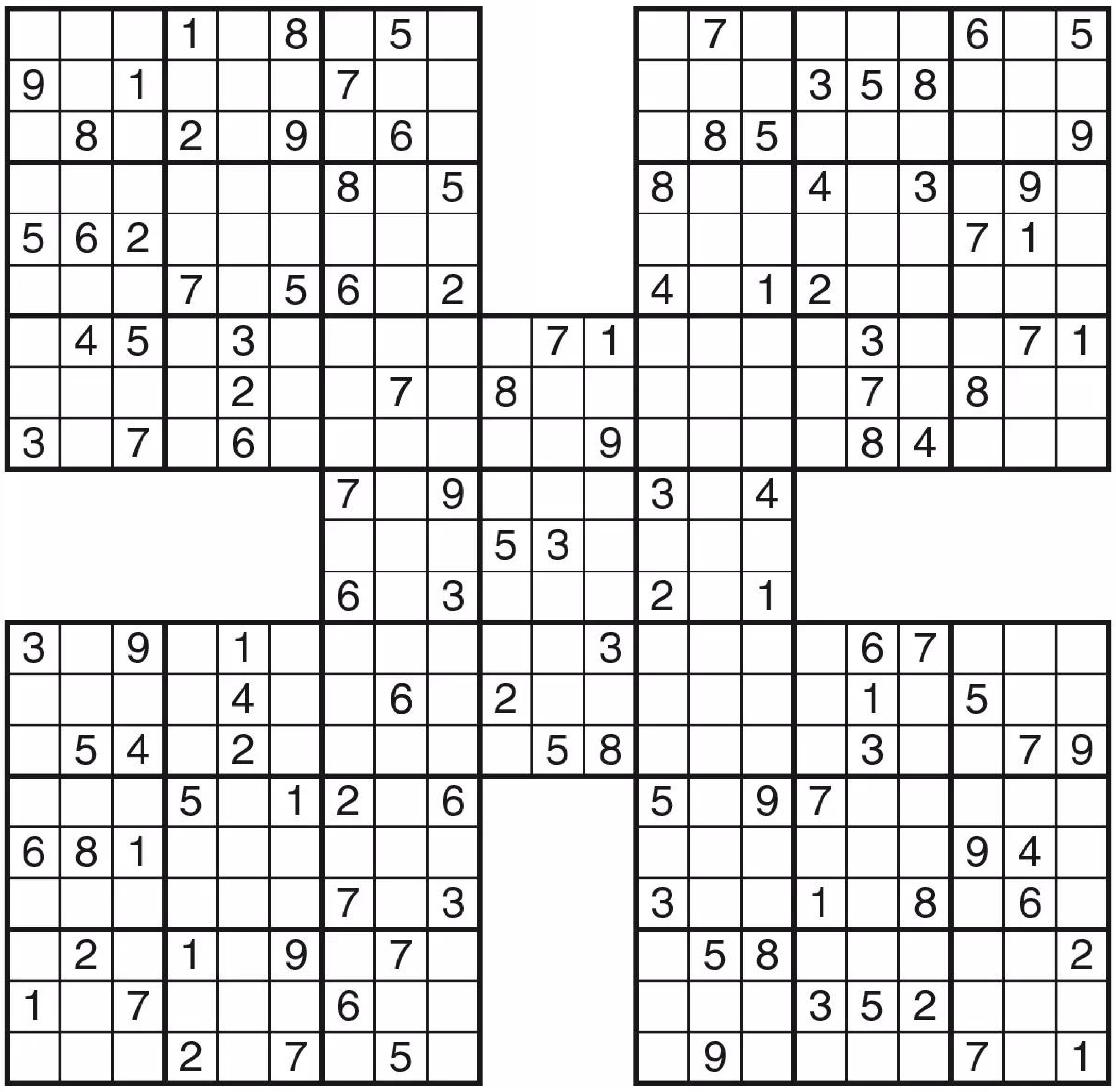
Stuck on the puzzle? Call
0905 789 4190
to hear individual clues or the full solution
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*
Service provider Spoke Ltd -
Helpline 0333 202 3390



SAMURAI SUDOKU

In Samurai Sudoku, normal sudoku rules apply, but the 9x9 sudoku at the centre shares four of its 3x3 boxes with those of the outer sudokus.

Solution tomorrow



WORD BUILDER

Answer each clue so that every word contains the same letters as the previous word, plus or minus one.

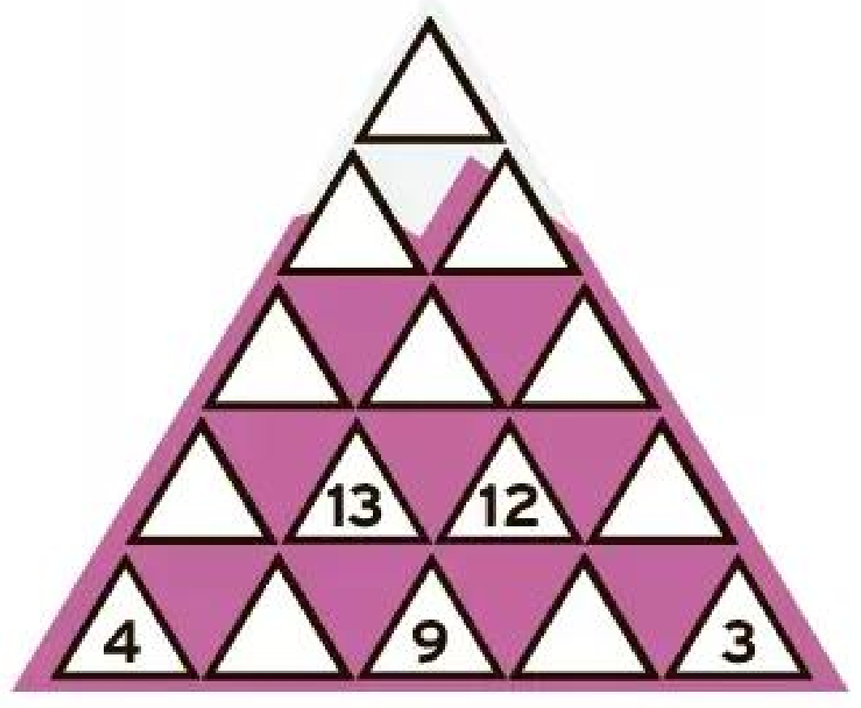
Solution tomorrow

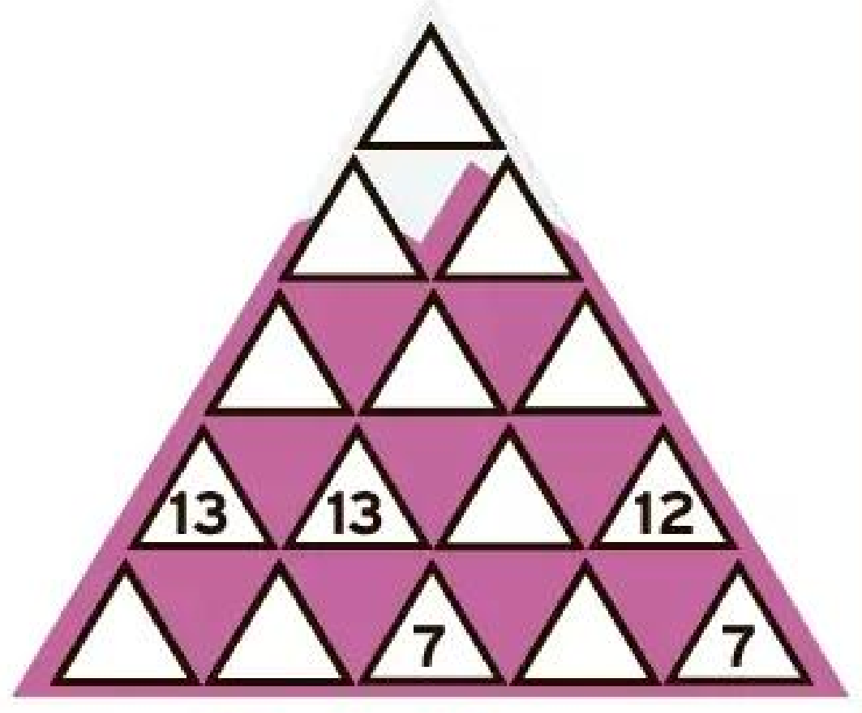
1 ☐☐☐
2 ☐☐☐☐
3 ☐☐☐☐☐
4 ☐☐☐☐☐☐
5 ☐☐☐☐☐
6 ☐☐☐☐
7 ☐☐☐

1 Expire
2 Team
3 Eavesdropped
4 Flavoured
5 Long poems
6 Freezes
7 Thus

SUMMIT UP

If the number in each triangle is the sum of the two below, what is the top number?



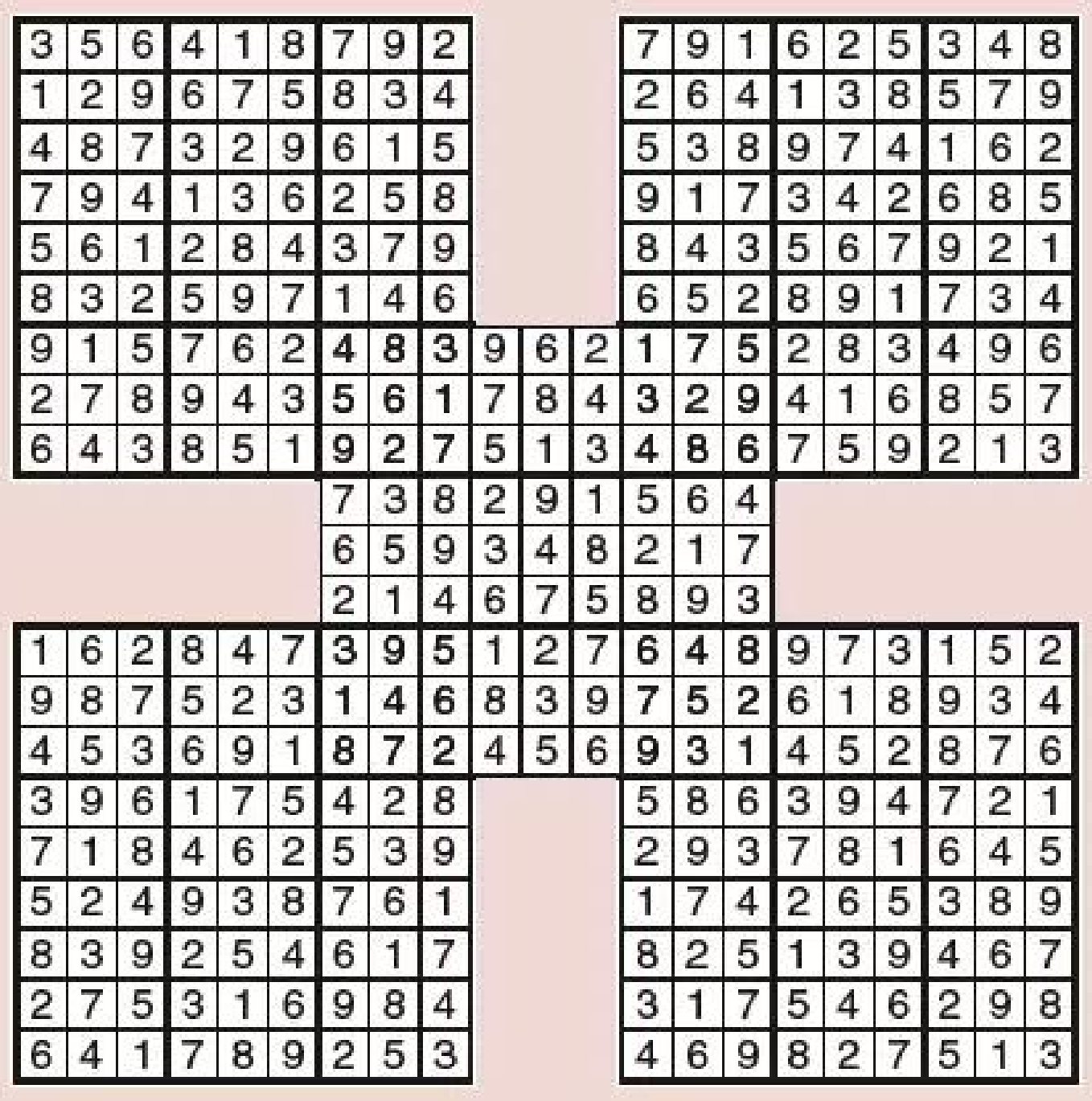


Solution tomorrow

QUIZWORD

Across:
7 Valerie Harper,
8 Minority,
9 Dull,
10 Man And,
12 Report,
14 Reggae,
16 Shandy,
18 Clam,
20 Superman,
22 The Negotiator.
Down:
1 Kamikaze,
2 Verona,
3 Gigi,
4 The Yards,
5 Crudup,
6 Teal,
11 Dressage,
13 Red Baron,
15 Gimeno,
17 Adrian,
19 Lahr,
21 Peto.

SAMURAI SUDOKU



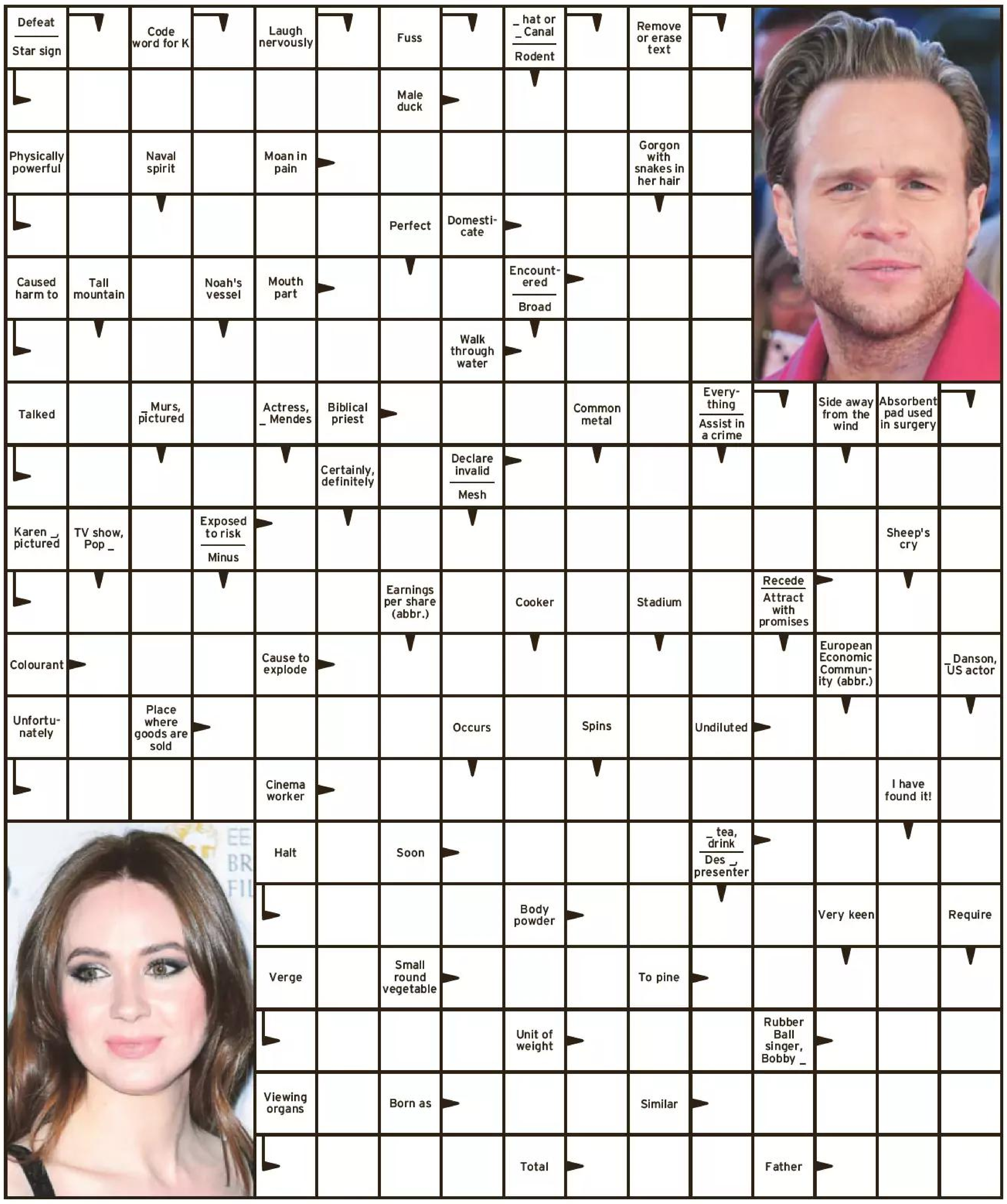
SMALL CROSSWORD

Across: 2 Synonyms, **9** Unions, **10** Cues, **11** Alto, **13** Upper, **14** Underfoot, **16** Lap up, **19** Eton, **20** Ella, **21** As well, **22** The bends. **Down: 1** Succulent, **3** Yield, **4** Nose, **5** On purpose, **6** Yelp, **7** Meteor, **8** Shortfall, **12** Snatch, **15** Oiled, **17** Poke, **18** Sewn.

ARROW-WORD

Arrow-words are like crosswords, but the clues are printed inside squares on the grid. Write your answers in the blank squares in the direction indicated by the arrows.

Solution tomorrow


Defeat
Star sign
Code word for K
Laugh nervously
Fuss
_ hat or _ Canal
Rodent
Remove or erase text
Male duck
Physically powerful
Naval spirit
Moan in pain
Gorgon with snakes in her hair
Perfect
Domesticate
Caused harm to
Tall mountain
Noah's vessel
Mouth part
Encountered
Broad
Walk through water
Talked
_ Murs, pictured
Actress, _ Mendes
Biblical priest
Common metal
Everything
Assist in a crime
Side away from the wind
Absorbent pad used in surgery
Certainly, definitely
Declare invalid
Mesh
Karen _, pictured
TV show, Pop _
Exposed to risk
Minus
Sheep's cry
Earnings per share (abbr.)
Cooker
Stadium
Recede
Attract with promises
Colourant
Cause to explode
European Economic Community (abbr.)
_ Danson, US actor
Unfortunately
Place where goods are sold
Occurs
Spins
Undiluted
Cinema worker
I have found it!
Halt
Soon
_ tea, drink
Des _, presenter
Body powder
Very keen
Require
Verge
Small round vegetable
To pine
Unit of weight
Rubber Ball singer, Bobby _
Viewing organs
Born as
Similar
Total
Father

WORDSEARCH

M	E	O	Z	K	A	G	L	Q	R	G	J	V	U	G
M	S	E	S	R	G	E	S	D	I	K	A	A	W	S
J	C	V	U	S	U	L	N	Y	X	R	L	B	Y	T
V	O	N	S	M	E	O	P	W	D	I	S	Y	M	H
L	T	M	A	R	R	B	J	N	E	R	Q	A	K	G
O	T	S	N	A	B	R	A	H	E	W	N	N	U	M
L	Y	K	H	E	C	S	S	S	N	T	S	M	H	L
M	E	S	G	U	V	N	A	A	T	Y	I	S	A	T
V	L	I	R	U	A	E	H	O	L	I	O	F	S	L
U	N	M	R	E	N	T	T	V	N	P	A	T	Y	C
U	A	O	S	S	N	W	I	S	H	N	A	N	J	F
S	T	N	A	A	L	A	U	I	Z	C	K	R	A	Z
E	S	R	M	Z	J	Z	E	P	E	V	X	R	Z	J
T	A	A	F	B	Z	Q	D	Y	I	F	I	F	Z	C
H	S	S	Z	W	Q	M	A	M	B	B	H	D	Z	H

NAMES BEGINNING WITH S

Find all the terms listed below in the grid.

Solution tomorrow

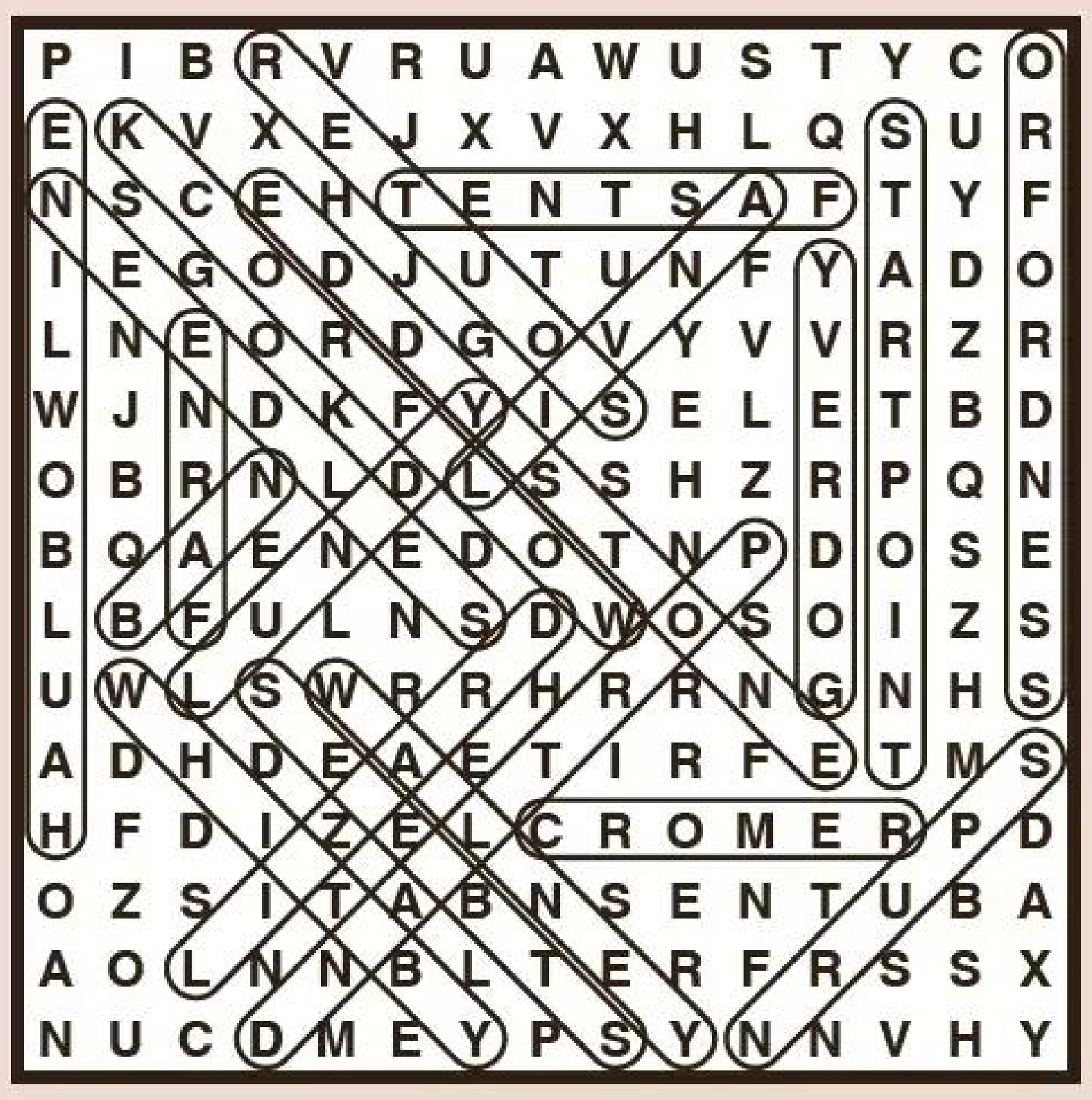
SAMANTHA ● SAMUEL ● SANDRA ● SARAH SAUL ● SCOTT ● SEAN ● SEBASTIAN SETH ● SHARON ● SHEILA ● SIMON SOPHIE ● STACEY ● STANLEY ● STEVE SUSAN ● SYLVIA

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

QUICK CROSSWORD

Across: 7 Render, **8** Meddle, **10** Culprit, **11** Price, **12** Arch, **13** Empty, **17** Exalt, **18** Fore, **22** Cause, **23** Trivial, **24** Assist, **25** Retain.
Down: 1 Crucial, **2** Inflict, **3** Merry, **4** Despite, **5** Admit, **6** Level, **9** Stimulate, **14** Expense, **15** Comical, **16** Feeling, **19** Scrap, **20** Curse, **21** Ripen.

WORDSEARCH



P	I	B	R	V	R	U	A	W	U	S	T	Y	C	O
E	K	V	X	E	J	X	V	X	H	L	Q	S	U	R
N	S	C	E	H	T	E	N	T	S	A	F	T	Y	F
I	E	G	O	D	J	U	T	U	N	F	Y	A	D	O
L	N	E	O	R	D	G	O	V	Y	V	V	R	Z	R
W	J	N	D	K	F	Y	I	S	E	L	E	T	B	D
O	B	R	N	L	D	L	S	S	H	Z	R	P	Q	N
B	Q	A	E	N	E	D	O	T	N	P	D	O	S	E
L	B	F	U	L	N	S	D	W	O	S	O	I	Z	S
U	W	L	S	W	R	R	H	R	R	N	G	N	H	S
A	D	H	D	E	A	E	T	I	R	F	E	T	M	S
H	F	D	I	Z	E	L	C	R	O	M	E	R	P	D
O	Z	S	I	T	A	B	N	S	E	N	T	U	B	A
A	O	L	N	N	B	L	T	E	R	F	R	S	S	X
N	U	C	D	M	E	Y	P	S	Y	N	N	V	H	Y

ARROW-WORD

		S		V		F			A		T				
V	A	L	U	E		L	E	N	G	T	H				
	C	O	N	T	R	O	L		I	R	E				
T	R	U	S	S		R	I	O	T	E	R				
	O	C	T		S	I	C		A	V	E				
	S	H	A	W		D	I	T	T	O					
	S		B	R	E	A	T	H	E	R	S		S		P
J		S	L	I	P			A			U	S	A	G	E
O		M	E	T	E	O	R	I	T	E	S		U	R	N
E	M	U		H	E	R	O		S	M	I	T	T	E	N
	E	D	G	E		C	A	N	A	P	E		E	N	E
W	A	G	E	S			S	A	R	I		M		A	
	N	E	T		A	S	T	I		R	I	Y	A	D	H
				S	H	E		L		E	N	T	R	E	E
					A	I	R				C	H	A	S	M
						Z	E	N	I	T	H		P		
				C	R	U	S	A	D	E		L	A	M	B
					A	R	I	S	E	N		A	H	O	Y
				H	Y	E	N	A	S		S	H	O	N	E

SUDOKU EASY

5	4	8	1	9	2	6	3	7
9	3	2	5	7	6	4	1	8
1	6	7	8	4	3	2	5	9
8	1	9	7	2	5	3	4	6
3	2	4	6	1	9	7	8	5
6	7	5	4	3	8	1	9	2
2	5	1	9	6	4	8	7	3
7	8	3	2	5	1	9	6	4
4	9	6	3	8	7	5	2	1

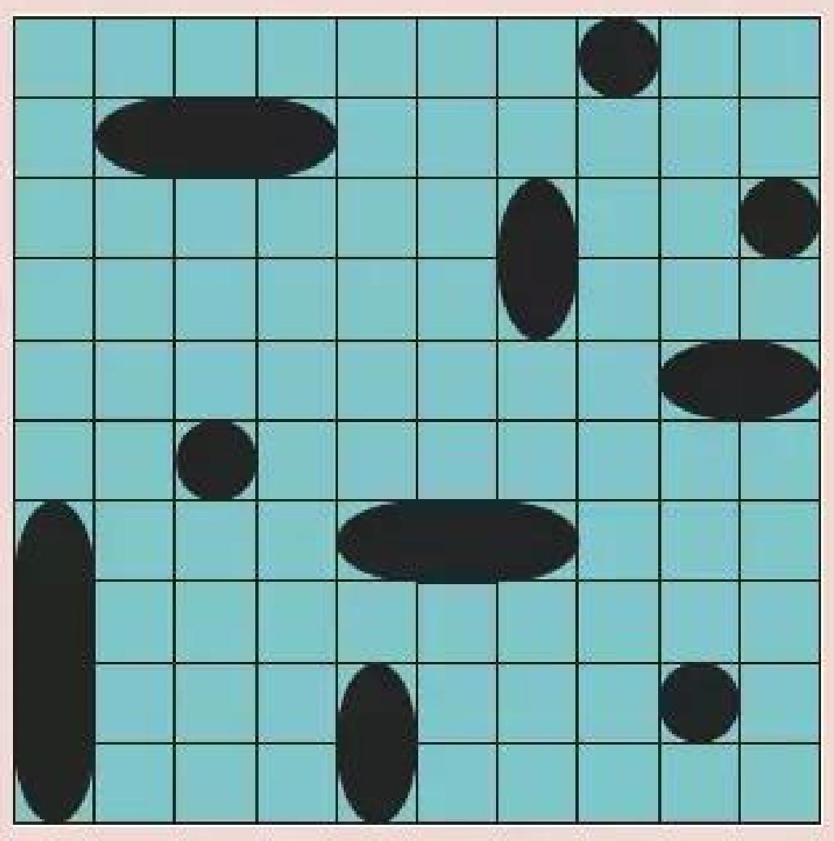
SUDOKU MEDIUM

6	2	7	8	3	9	5	4	1
4	5	1	6	2	7	9	3	8
9	8	3	4	1	5	7	6	2
7	4	2	1	9	6	3	8	5
3	9	8	5	7	4	1	2	6
5	1	6	3	8	2	4	7	9
2	6	5	7	4	1	8	9	3
8	7	9	2	5	3	6	1	4
1	3	4	9	6	8	2	5	7

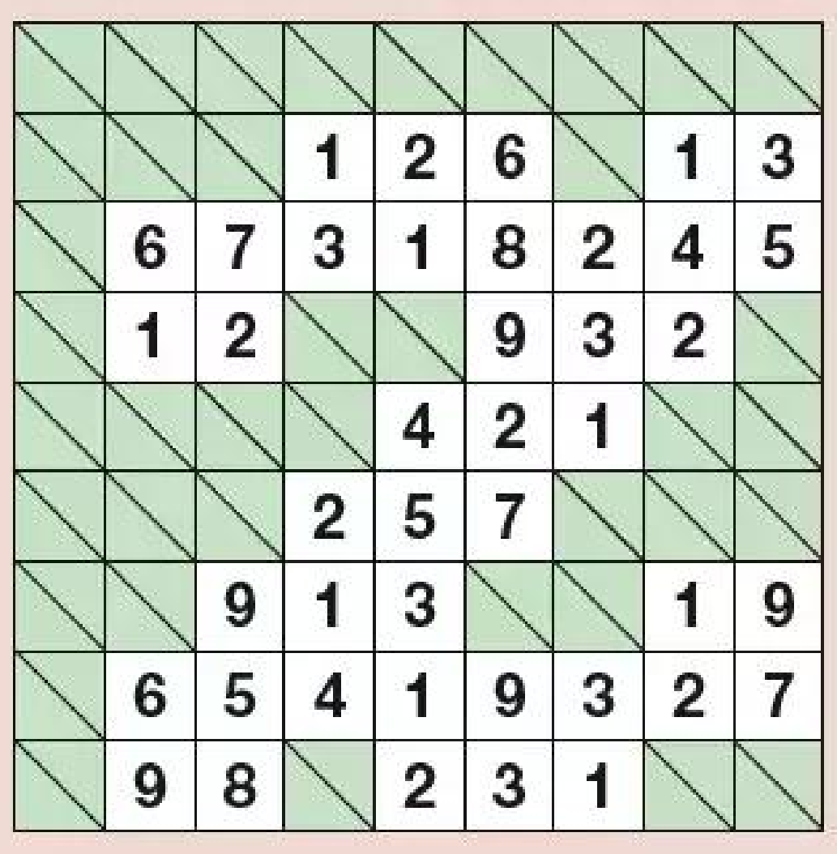
SUDOKU DIFFICULT

3	8	6	5	2	1	4	9	7
1	4	2	8	7	9	6	3	5
7	9	5	3	6	4	2	1	8
4	7	9	1	3	6	8	5	2
5	3	8	9	4	2	7	6	1
6	2	1	7	5	8	3	4	9
9	5	3	4	8	7	1	2	6
8	6	4	2	1	5	9	7	3
2	1	7	6	9	3	5	8	4

BATTLESHIPS

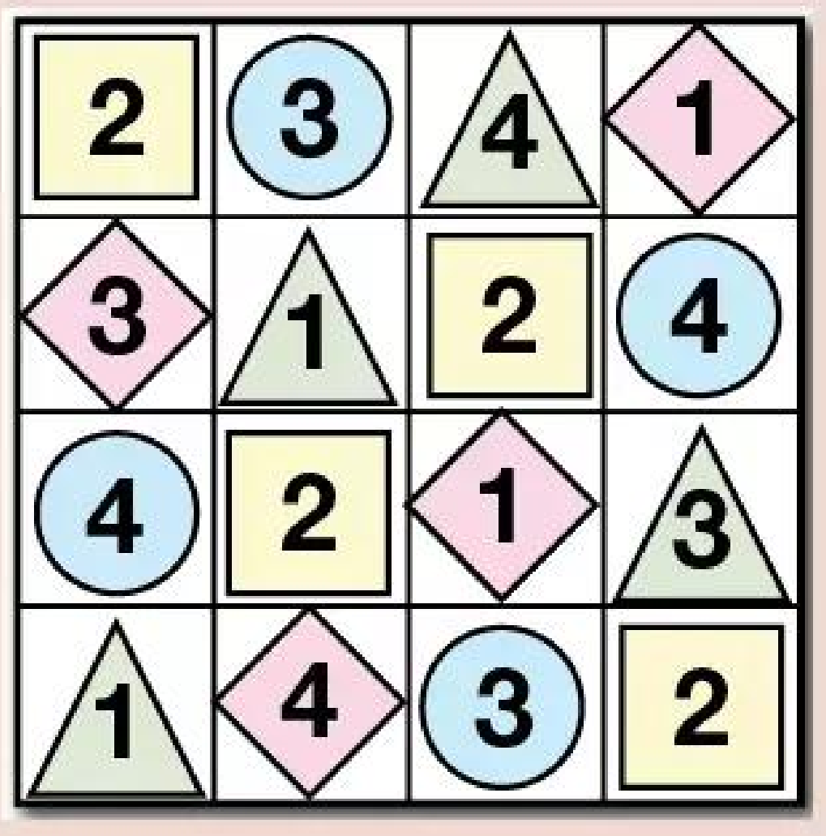


KAKURO



			1	2	6		1	3
	6	7	3	1	8	2	4	5
	1	2			9	3	2	
				4	2	1		
			2	5	7			
		9	1	3			1	9
	6	5	4	1	9	3	2	7
	9	8		2	3	1		

KEIJO



2	3	4	1
3	1	2	4
4	2	1	3
1	4	3	2

TARGET

UNDERPLAY apery, aryl, dearly, deary, delay, deny, denary, dray, drey, duly, dyer, dyne, early, lady, laundry, layer, lyre, nary, nearly, nerdy, nudely, parley, payer, pearly, penury, play, played, player, plenary, pray, prayed, prey, puly, puny, purely, pyre, randy, rayed, ready, redly, relay, rely, repay, replay, reply, rudely, underlay, underpay, UNDERPLAY, unlay, unready, yard, yarn, year, yearn, yelp, yuan

THE ALPHAPUZZLE

Across: Junk, Pretzels, Octopus, Awful, Ashen, Umpire, Damask, Advent, Arable, Flame, Annex, Uranium, Document, Gear.
Down: Jeopardy, Sand, Notch, Moronic, Spines, Buxom, Rescue, Sequin, Tramp, Defeat, Enforce, Alive, Sale (clue), Streamer.

THE ALPHABEATER

Black squares: 2, 3, 7, 10, 11, 16, 17, 22, 23, 26, 29, 33, 34, 38.
Across: Narrow, Escape, Unique, Tripled, Humid, Latex, Ensue, Flounce, Saliva, Notice, Tarmac.
Down: Squashy, Fling, Nail, Majority, Idling, Reek, Vet, Tithe, Web, User, Jinxes, Tacklers, Zinc, Fetid, Herbage.

CROSS DOUBT

Across: THEME
Down: TUNES

SUMMIT UP

100 and 67

WORD BUILDER

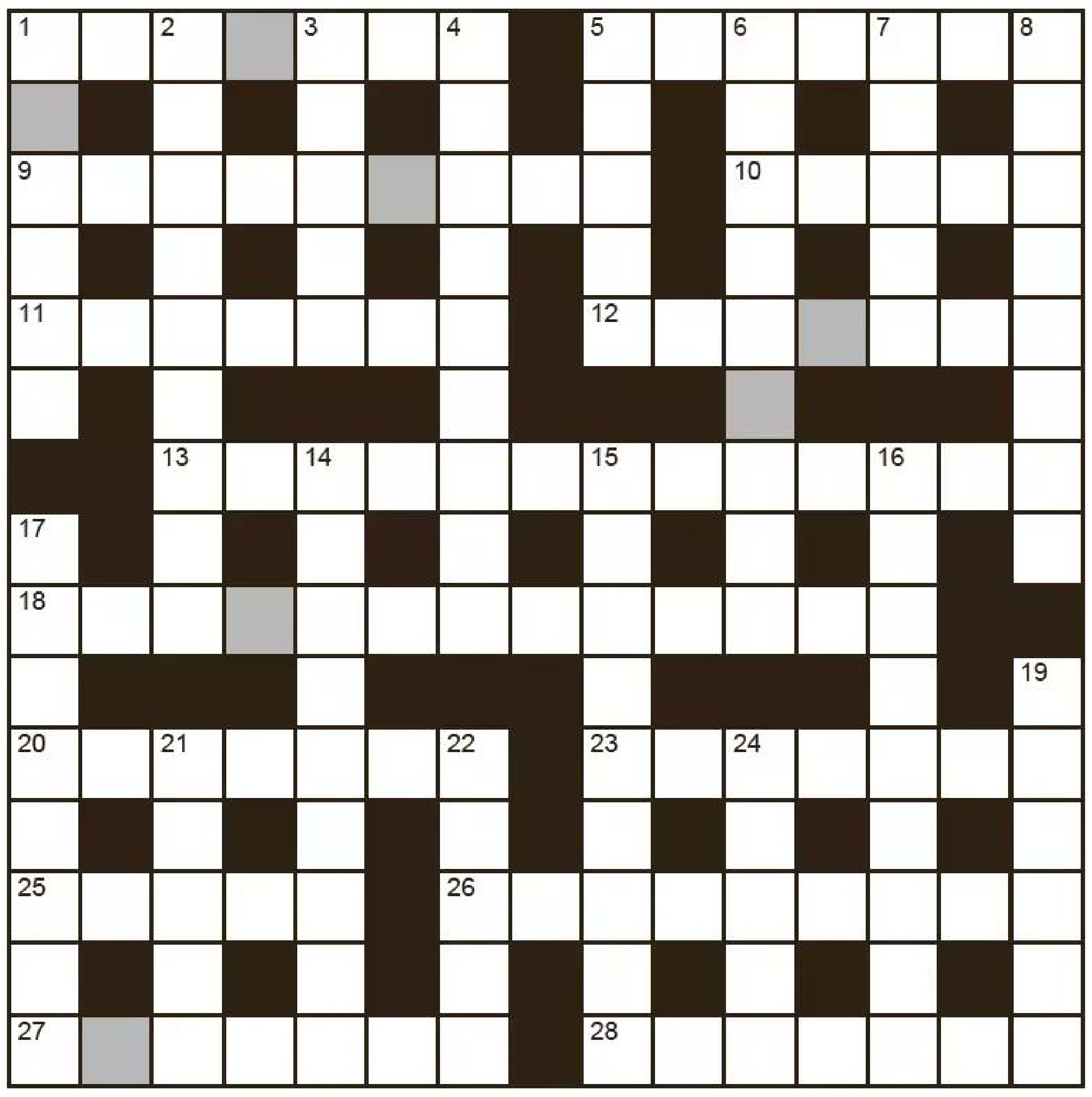
Leg, Luge, Bulge, Burgle, Gruel, Lure, Rue

Puzzles

CRUSADER PRIZE CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Collided around the French shack (7)
5 Fashionable side performing (5,2)
9 Made efficient work, man changed side (9)
10 Strange to find an untruth hidden inside (5)
11 Almost revere a trainee officer (7)
12 Component that gives off heat (7)
13 Ordered clan its tartan from the US (13)
18 Finally, formerly and on everyone's behalf (4,3,3,3)
20 Entertainer transported those by ship (7)
23 Overtake a bunch of volunteers? Sauce! (7)
25 Cosmetic is a shade foreign (5)
26 Deity atrophied, sadly (9)
27 Furniture item useful to an actor (7)
28 Doctor sees him as slow to get angry (7)

DOWN
1 Church has spoken of some music (6)
2 Solving maths, getting a twitch, breathing with difficulty (9)
3 Residence right for a poet (5)
4 Revealed record fail by Dutch leader (9)
5 Dirge composed for bank (5)
6 Tug a meal around a country (9)
7 Nonsense food (5)
8 Mark follows negative poles having special coating (8)
14 A battle sense – different from understanding (9)
15 Journey round old shop, circulating carrier (9)
16 Take vital move to be loquacious (9)
17 Annoyed and fed up about article (8)
19 Type of leather, that's obvious (6)
21 Cook, terribly astute, but lost one time (5)
22 Art is performed for part of the flight (5)
24 Brief drink (5)



WIN £100 CASH

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN
Read down the letters in the highlighted squares to reveal the mystery word.

TO ENTER: Call **0904 161 3700** (calls cost £1.50 plus your telephone company's network access charge) and leave your answer and details, or text **DXCRUS** followed by a space, your answer, name and address details to **88833** (texts cost £1.50 plus your standard network rate). Lines close at midnight Saturday. Or send your grid containing the answer in the shaded squares by posting it to: Crusader Crossword, January 7, PO Box 8694, Derby DE1 9TW. Entries must be postmarked by January 8 at the latest. For any postal enquiries, call helpline number. SP: Spoke – 0333 202 3390.
An extra day is given for postal entries during bank holidays.

● ***One weekly winner will be the first random correct entry drawn from all entry routes after the closing date of midnight Saturday. Competition runs Sunday to Saturday. The Editor's decision is final.***

NEED HELP? Call **0904 161 1609** for 5 extra clues! Calls cost £1.50 plus your telephone company's network access charge.

NAME
ADDRESS

POSTCODE

MONDAY'S SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Deluge, 4 Hampered, 10 Website, 11 Fleapit, 12 Tryst, 13 Boomerang, 14 Manipulative, 18 Mass-produced, 23 Prominent, 24 Libel, 25 No-trump, 26 Redcoat, 27 Dogberry, 28 Leased. **DOWN:** 1 Downtime, 2 Lobbying, 3 Grist, 5 Affront, 6 Preserved, 7 Repeal, 8 Dotage, 9 Gerbil, 15 Platitude, 16 Scabious, 17 Adulated, 19 Sleeper, 20 Retire, 21 Opined, 22 Dog tag, 24 Ledge. **Prizeword:** Honesty

TARGET

E	D	N
O	K	U
T	R	O

● *The Target uses words in the main body of Chambers 21st Century Dictionary (1999 edition)*

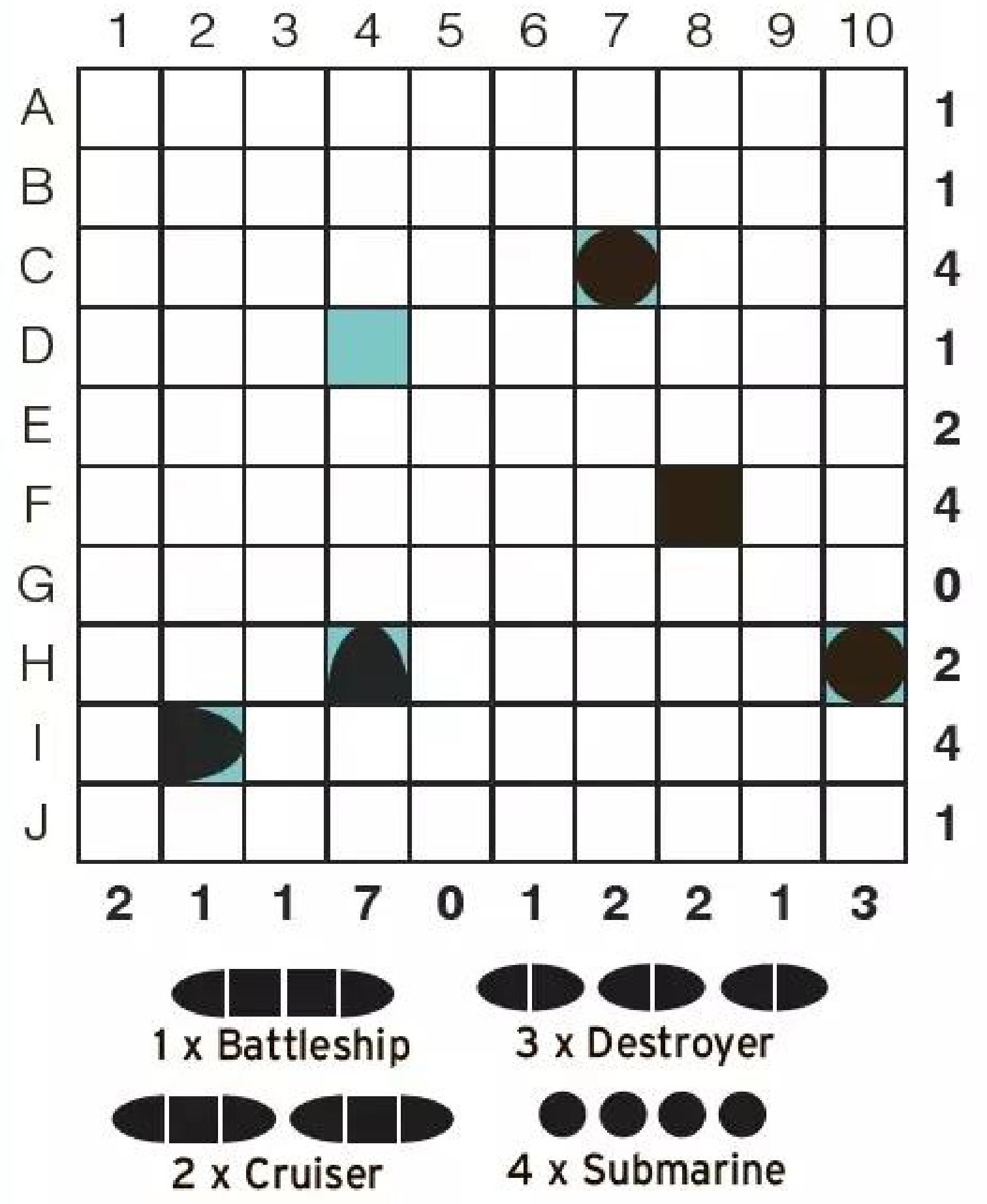
HOW many words of four letters or more can you make from the letters shown here?
In making a word, each letter may be used once only. Each must contain the centre letter and there must be at least one nine-letter word. No plurals. Verb forms ending in S permitted.

TODAY'S TARGET
Good 12; **very good** 18; **excellent** 23 **(or more). Solution tomorrow**

Call **0907 181 2585**
for today's Target solution
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

BATTLESHIPS

FIND where the fleet of ships shown is hidden in the grid. The numbers to the right of and below the grid indicate how many of the squares in that row are filled in with ships or parts of ships. The ships do not touch each other, even diagonally. Some squares have been filled in to start you off.
Solution tomorrow



THE ALPHABEATER

TARGET TIME: 34 minutes

CAN you crack the Alphabeater? Each grid number represents a letter – or black square. As in Alphapuzzle, every letter of the alphabet is used. But you have to complete the grid too! Use the given letters and black squares below the grid to start. The grid is 'rotationally symmetrical' – in other words, it looks the same if you turn the page upside down.
Solution tomorrow

Extra letter clues
0907 181 2560
(Deduct three minutes for each extra clue letter heard)
Full solution
0907 181 2558
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

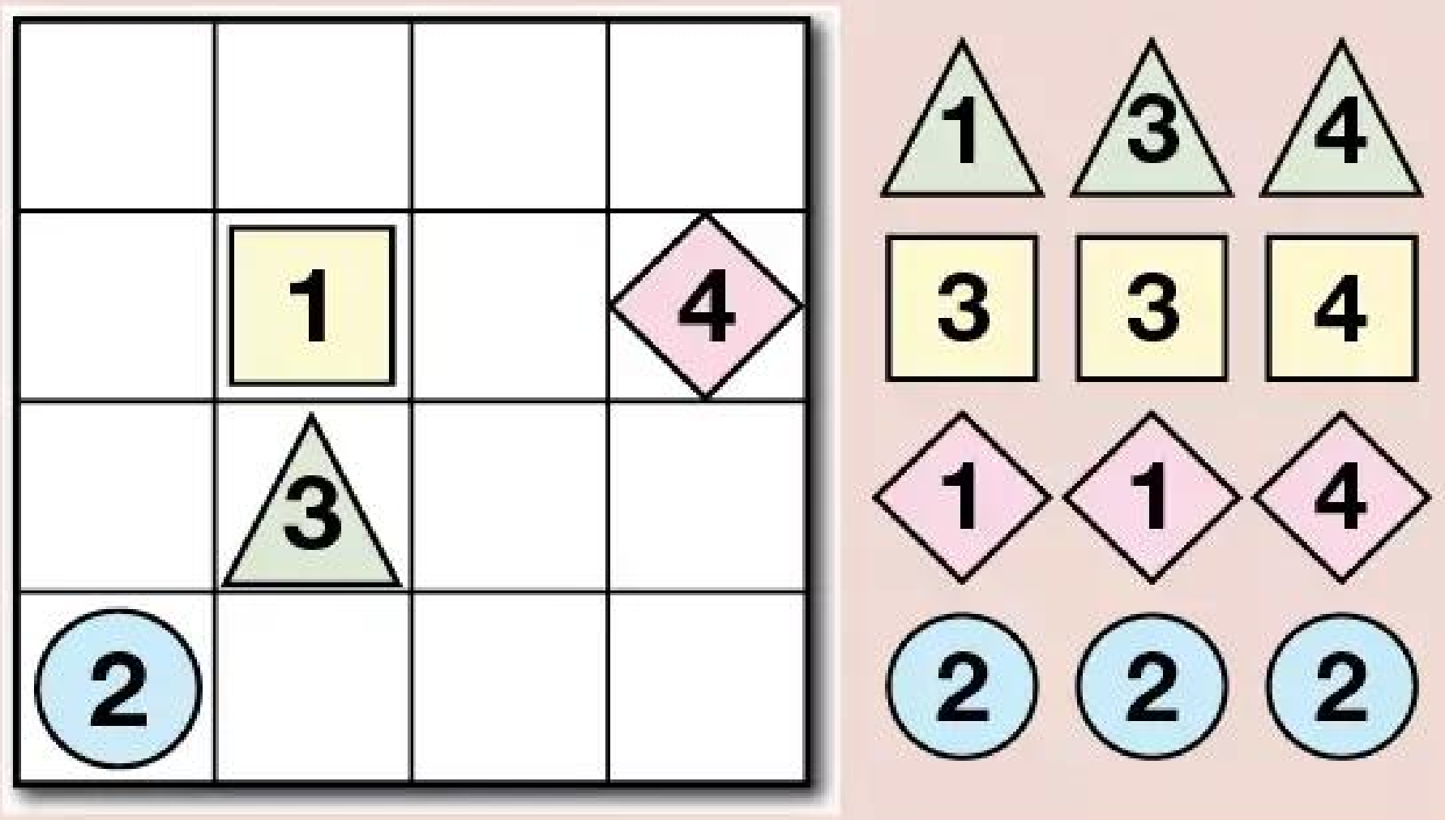
A B ~~C~~ D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U ~~V~~ ~~W~~ X Y Z

5	31	8	30	2	33	16	12	40	10	39	18	22
20	3	22	13	18	8	7	40	5	30	30	33	16
20	36	33	4	17	31	29	3	11	13	14	23	8
17	23	16	10	13	39	18	6	33	16	21	5	36
4	12	5	23	22	7	29	19	39	37	12	23	8
19	39	30	5	36	33	16	10	30	16	5	17	31
22	10	17	37	5	37	14	34	17	19	40	3	29
36	14	38	28	35	27	20	8	33	30	5	36	7
5	12	15	34	40	18	20	18	39	34	16	18	30
38	16	5	6	5	30	32	22	7	3	5	25	8
33	25	20	32	28	13	9	14	33	33	31	36	35
21	16	5	1	33	24	19	16	25	27	30	37	33
8	34	16	25	16	15	26	16	17	30	2	33	24

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
					V							■							
21	**22**	**23**	**24**	**25**	**26**	**27**	**28**	**29**	**30**	**31**	**32**	**33**	**34**	**35**	**36**	**37**	**38**	**39**	**40**
					W						■						C		

● Alternatively, for six Extra Letter clues to your mobile, text **DXBEAT to 64343.** Texts cost £1 plus standard network rate.

KEIJO



Place the tiles into the grid so that four different numbers and four different shapes appear in each row and column.
Solution tomorrow

THE ALPHAPUZZLE®

Alphapuzzle® tests logic and word power. Each grid number stands for a letter. Every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter or letters – below the main grid – to start. **Solution tomorrow**
DIFFICULTY: 8/10; **TARGET:** 26 mins; **CLUE:** Back up about poetry.

A B C D E F G H I ~~J~~ K L M N O P Q ~~R~~ S T U V W X Y Z

1	15	10	10	24	15	■	15	24	2	7	6	10
■	3	■	17	■	21	17	3	■	7	■	7	■
5	2	7	1	■	21	■	12	■	10	7	21	2
■	1	■	5	26	12	15	4	20	19	■	2	■
14	24	23	15	■	5	■	2	■	2	17	16	5
19	■	6	■	4	15	24	5	15	■	18	■	2
15	4	24	6	■	■	5	■	■	13	17	23	15
4	■	20	■	17	20	19	1	15	■	12	■	24
8	7	23	15	■	17	■	15	■	18	1	24	22
■	22	■	1	15	11	15	1	5	15	■	9	■
10	24	4	24	■	15	■	15	■	25	17	12	2
■	10	■	5	■	1	7	24	■	12	■	1	■
18	15	21	15	20	2	■	18	7	2	19	15	1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
R												J
14	**15**	**16**	**17**	**18**	**19**	**20**	**21**	**22**	**23**	**24**	**25**	**26**

EXTRA LETTER CLUES: 0907 181 2568*
Hear up to six Extra Letters, deduct two minutes for each clue letter heard.
FULL SOLUTION: **0907 181 2565***
ACROSS ONLY: **0907 181 2561*** / DOWN ONLY: **0907 181 2562***
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

Alternatively, for six extra letter clues direct to your mobile, text **DXALPHA** *to* **64343.** *Texts cost £1 plus standard network rate.*

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THE DAILY EXPRESS 30-SECOND CHALLENGE

TODAY'S ANSWERS: BEGINNER = 61; INTERMEDIATE = 279; ADVANCED = 57.

PLAY MORE CROSSWORDS AND GAMES AT EXPRESS.CO.UK/PUZZLES

SP: Spoke – ***Helpline 0333 202 3390***

Simply Crochet

8-page special

3 great patterns

PLUS: Download your Beginners Guide to Crochet Bookazine

Worth £9.99

Get into Crochet

Simple-to-follow designs to get you hooked on a new hobby

Editor's letter

Get ready to sink into a soothing rhythm of stitches as you make this week's gorgeous cardigan, brighten your home with a vibrant colour-pop cushion, and hook up the softest baby blanket for someone special. Each make comes with straightforward instructions and thoughtfully written patterns designed to help you build confidence, try new stitches, and enjoy every moment with your hook in hand. Whether you're a seasoned crocheter or just beginning your journey, we've made sure you'll feel supported, inspired, and ready to dive straight in.

Simply Crochet sits at the heart of modern making. Every issue we bring you fresh ideas, joyful colour palettes, clever constructions and standout designs from some of the most exciting crochet artists working today. Inside you'll find an uplifting mix of makes – from weekend garments and stylish accessories to stash-busting home décor and mindful quick wins – all chosen to spark your curiosity and help you fall in love with crochet again and again.

This week's issue also includes a fantastic daily digital-download supplement, each one packed with bonus patterns, trend-led inspiration, and in-depth tutorials so you can continue stitching long after you've turned the final page. Whether you have five minutes to spare or an entire cosy afternoon to yourself, there's something here to help you relax, reset, and reconnect with the craft you love.

Crochet is for everyone, and there is always a new technique to try, a new designer to discover, or a new colour combination to fall for. So settle in, pick up your hook, and enjoy the simple pleasure of creating something beautiful – one stitch at a time.

Sara
Sara Huntington,
Editor, Simply Crochet
IG @simplycrochetmag
FB Simply Crochet
Simplycrochet@ourmedia.co.uk

Best Day Ever
Let's DANCE!
be AWESOME or don't bother

LEARN HOW TO CROCHET

Scan the QR code to go directly to our page on www.gathered.how

Find out everything you need to know about crochet on Gathered! The page is filled with step-by-step videos, useful how-tos and information on the tools you'll need.

Learn techniques such as how to create a turning chain, change colour, increase and decrease, sew seams, check your tension, make a magic loop, join your rounds and much more. And while you're there, have a look at the free crochet patterns – you may just find your next make!

Scan the QR code to learn

PHOTOGRAPH: JESSE WILD, STYLING: BECKI CLARK

Colour clash

Try new techniques and chase away grey skies with **Miki Hemphill's** crochet cushion

HOW TO MAKE... A CROCHET CUSHION

MATERIALS

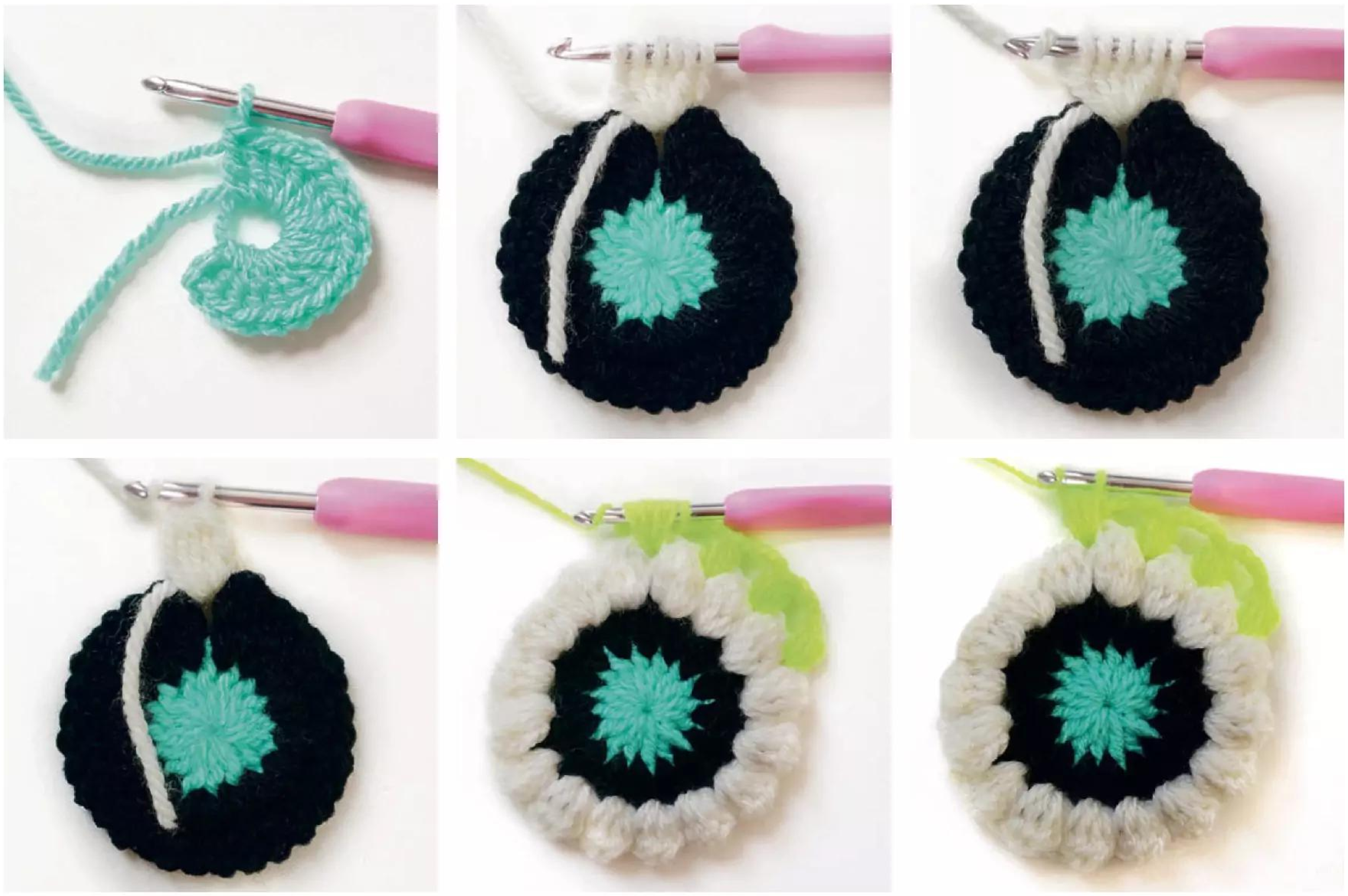
- Stylecraft Special Aran, 100% acrylic, 100g/196m per ball, one ball each in Aspen (1422) (Yarn A), Black (1002) (Yarn B), Cream (1005) (Yarn C), Fondant (1241) (Yarn E), Pomegranate (1083) (Yarn F), Gold (1709) (Yarn G)
- King Cole Big Value Neon DK, 100% acrylic, 100g/290m per ball, one ball in Sherbet (1316) (Yarn D)
- 4.5mm (UK 7, US 7) crochet hook
- 40cm (15¾") circular cushion pad
- Stitch markers
- Yarn needle

TENSION

- 4tr to each 2.5cm (1") when working around

ABBREVIATIONS (UK)

st(s) stitch(es)
sp(s) space(s)
st-sp(s) stitch space(s)
ch chain
ch-sp chain space
cs slip stitch
dc double crochet
htr half treble
tr treble
xtr crossed treble
SP-2 spike stitch over 2 rows
SP-3 spike stitch over 3 rows
yrh yarn round hook
RS right side
WS wrong side
BYFO break yarn and fasten off



Mixing pretty pastels with neon brights, this cushion uses striking colour combos and textured stitch techniques to maximum effect. If learning new crochet skills (or hooking up a statement accessory) is on your to-do list for the new year, then give Miki's project a go.

In addition to basic stitches such as double crochet, you'll use bobble stitch, puff stitch and spike stitch, all in alternating yarn colours, to build up eye-catching circular patterns. Scan the QR code on page 2, type in Crochet Stitch Guide in the search bar and familiarise yourself with each stitch – Miki's top tip when finishing off a puff or bobble stitch is to pull the yarn tightly to make them stand out.

MIKI HEMPHILL

Miki is a self-confessed crochet addict and yarn hoarder, and lives with her seven cats and future husband, Mr B. She co-hosts the Colour Pop Craft Swap on Instagram *@setfreemygypsysOul*, sells her makes and patterns on her Etsy shop, and posts DIY tutorials on her website. *www.sfmgs.co.uk*

Instructions

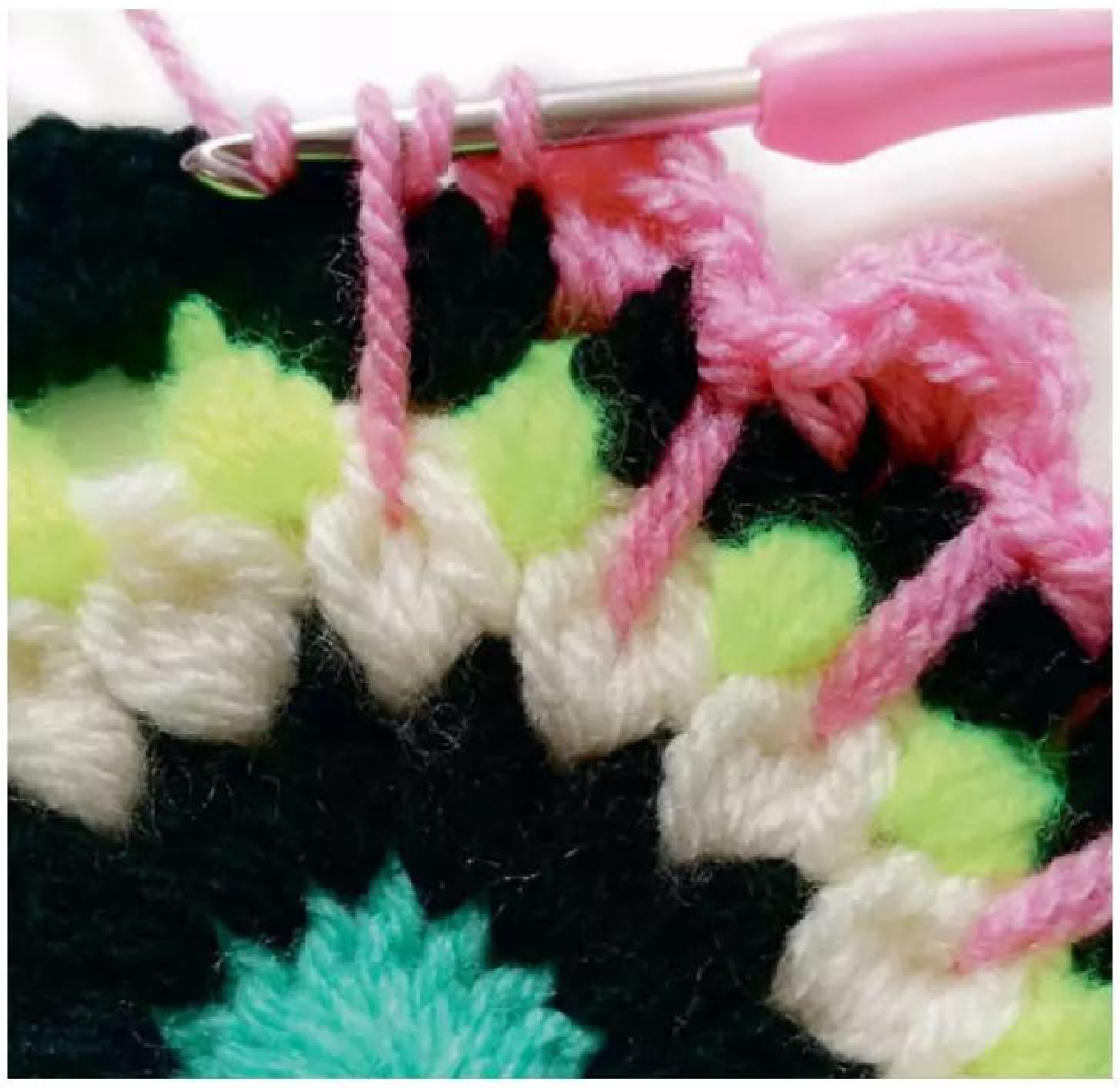
To create a dense fabric, this cushion is made by crocheting into the spaces between stitches using a slightly smaller hook than normal. The cushion is made in two pieces, front and back, which use the same pattern in different colourways. Familiarise yourself with the stitches before starting the cushion front. In this pattern, all bobble sts are worked from the WS.

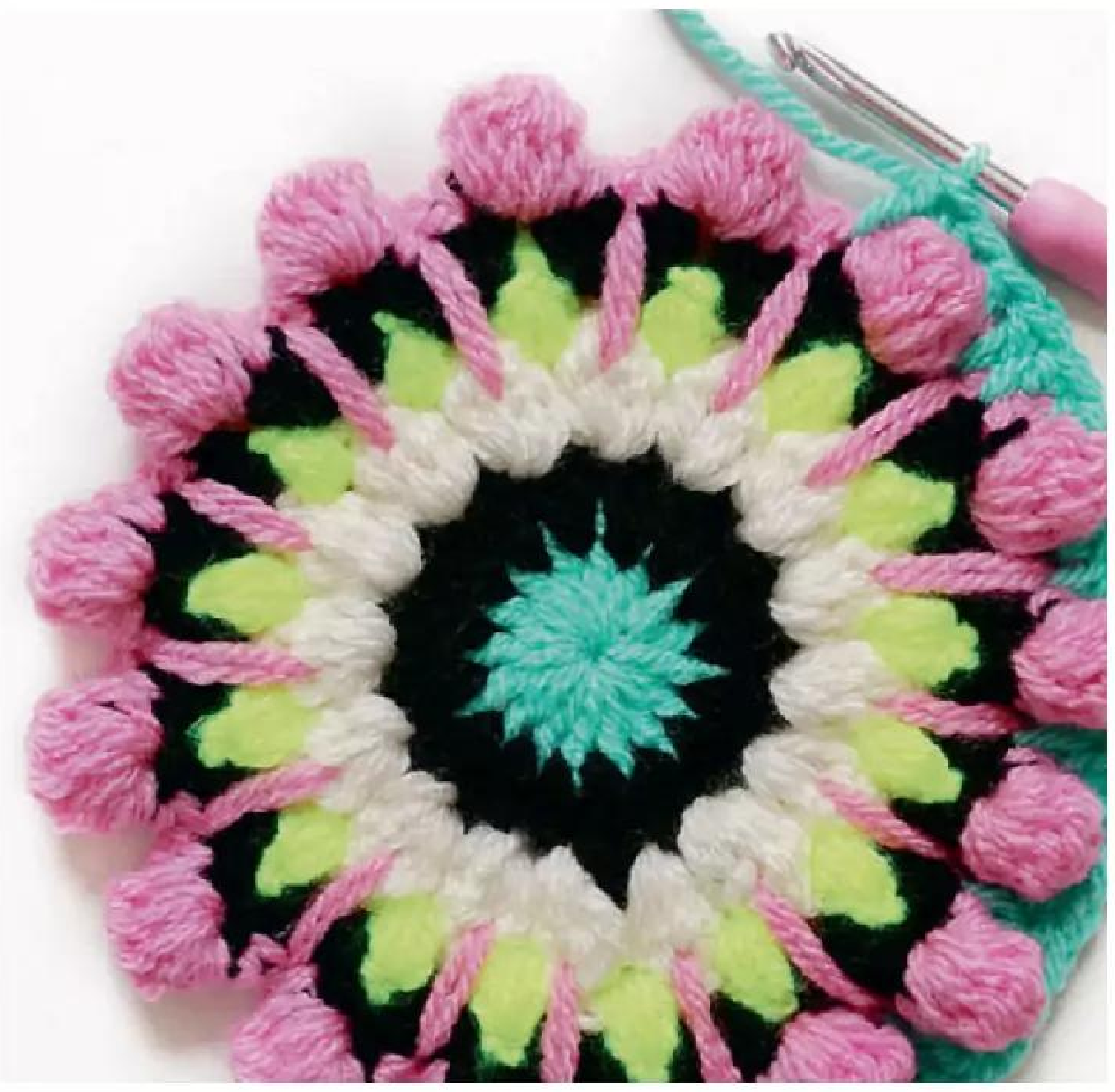
Magic ring

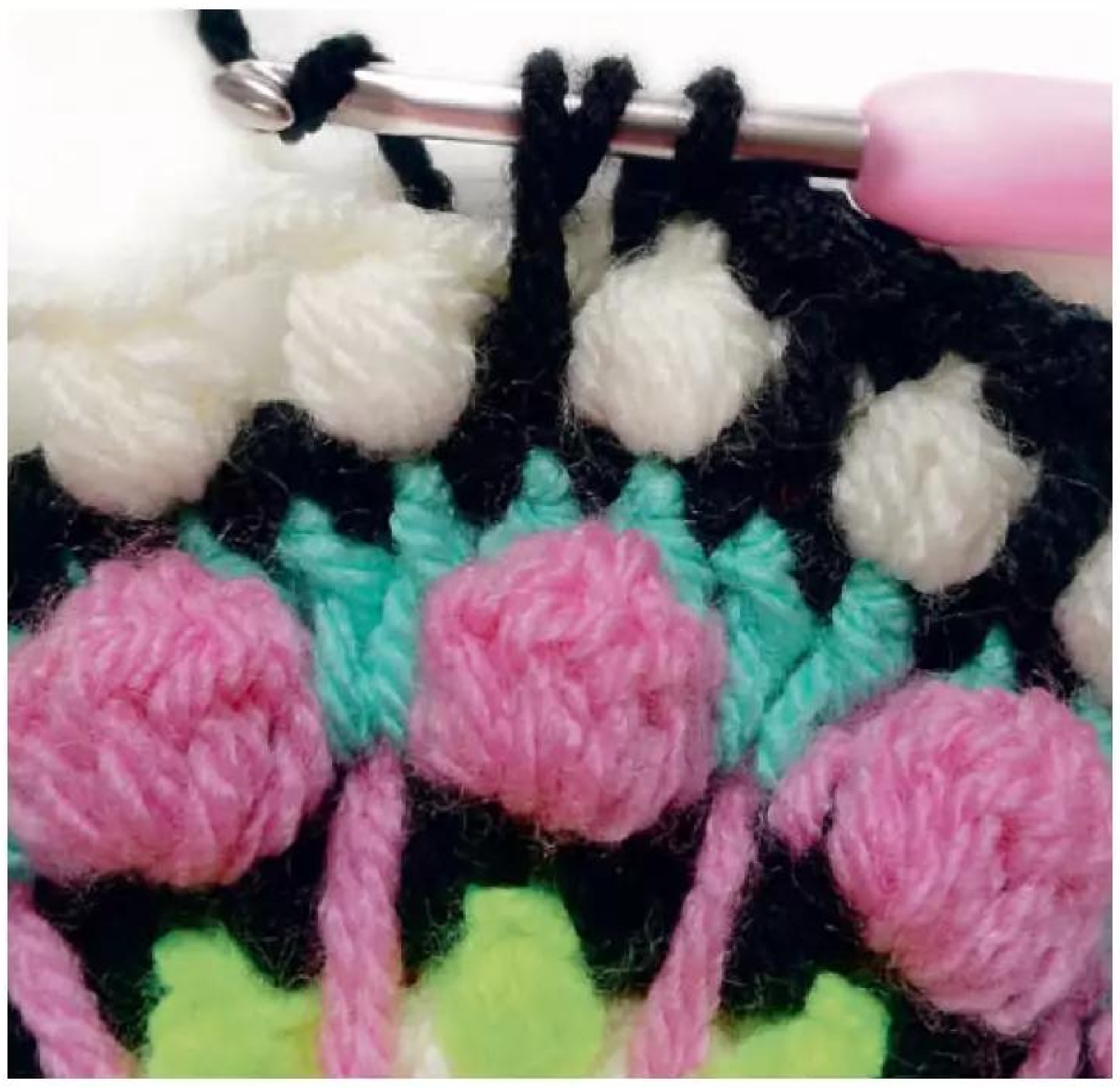
Hold the yarn in your hand and wrap the working yarn around your forefinger twice to create a ring. Slip the ring off your finger and insert the hook to pick up the first st, ch1, then work the necessary sts for round 1. Close the ring tightly by pulling the loose end.

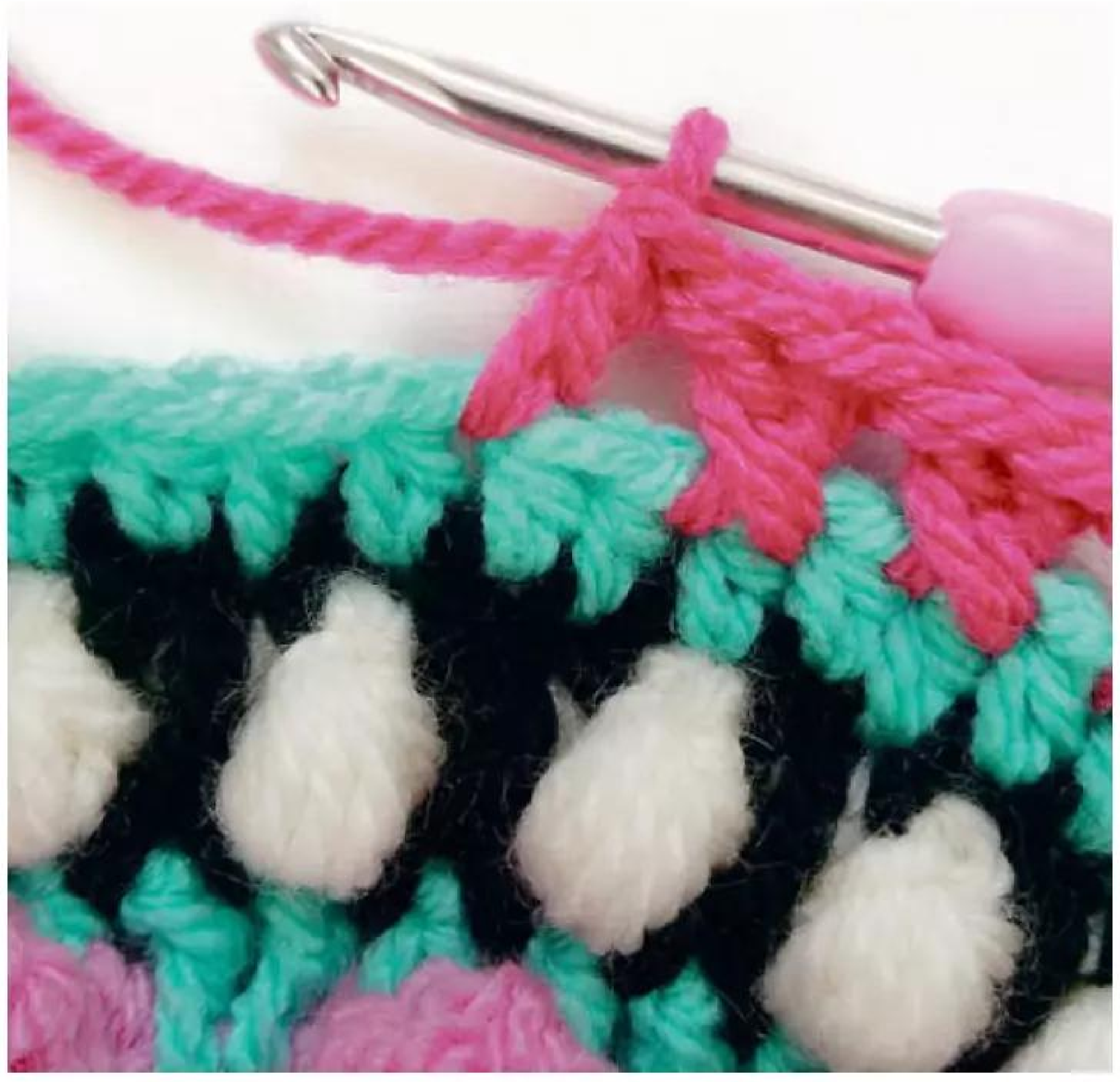
Front

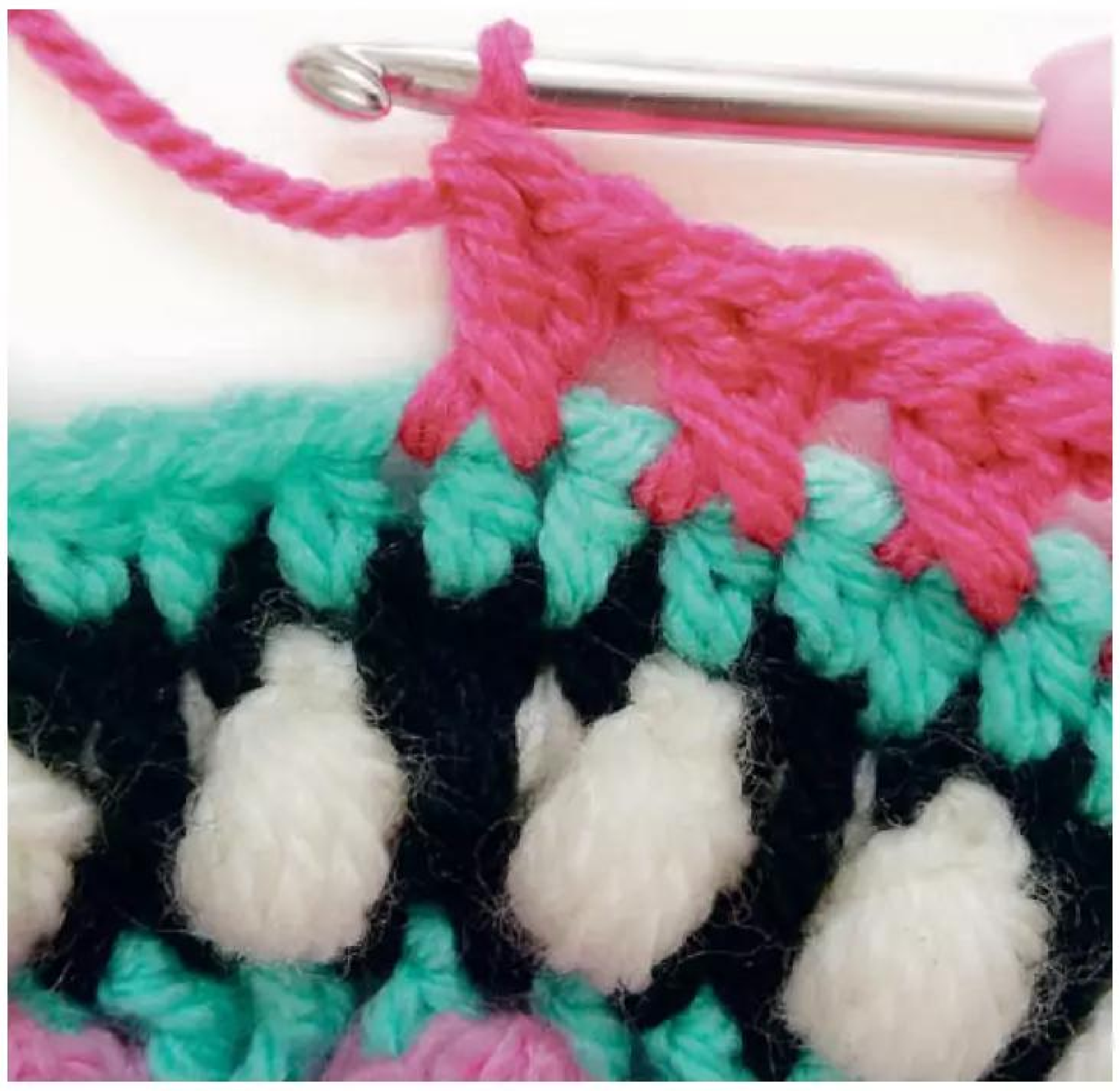
Round 1 using Yarn A, start with a magic ring, ch3 (counts as 1st tr), 15tr into the ring, pull ring tight, join to 1st tr with a ss. BYFO [16 sts]
Round 2 join Yarn B into any st-sp, ch3 (counts as 1st tr), 1tr into the same st-sp, 2tr in each st-sp around, join to 1st tr with a ss. BYFO [32 sts]
Round 3 join Yarn C into any st-sp between the 2tr shells, ch2, turn work WS facing and make a bobble st into the same st-sp, ch1, miss 1st-sp, (bobble st, ch1) in every alternate st-sp to end of round, join to 1st bobble with a ss. BYFO. Turn work back RS facing [16 bobble sts and 16 1ch-sps]
Round 4 join Yarn D into any 1ch-sp, ch2, make a puff st into the same 1ch-sp, ch3, (puff st, ch3) in each 1ch-sp to end of round, join to 1st puff st with a ss. BYFO [16 puff sts and 16 3ch-sps]
Round 5 join Yarn B into any 3ch-sp, ch3 (counts as 1st tr), (1tr, ch1, 2tr) into the same 3ch-sp, (2tr, ch1, 2tr) in each 3ch-sp to end of round, join to 1st tr with a ss. BYFO [64 sts and 16 1ch-sps]
Round 6 join Yarn E into any st-sp between (2tr, ch1, 2tr) shells, ch2 and turn your work WS facing. Now, work a bobble st into the same st-sp, ch1, 1dc into the next st-sp, SP-3 into the centre of the Round 3 bobble st working over the 1ch-sp, 1dc into the next st-sp, ch1**, bobble st in next st-sp; repeat from * another 14 times, then repeat from * to ** once, join to 1st bobble st with a ss. BYFO. Turn work back RS facing [64 sts and 32 1ch-sps]
Round 7 join Yarn A into a 1ch-sp to the left of a bobble st from Round 6, ch2 (counts as 1st htr), *1tr into each of next 2st-sps, 1htr into each of next two 1ch-sps; repeat from * another 15 times but on the last repeat omit the last htr, join to 1st bobble with a ss. BYFO [64 sts]
Round 8 join Yarn B into any st-sp, ch1 (counts as 1st dc), 1dc into each st-sp to end of round, join to 1st dc with a ss. BYFO [64 sts]
Round 9 join Yarn C into any st-sp, ch2, puff st into same st-sp, ch2, miss 1st-sp, (puff st, ch2) in every alternate st-sp to end of round, join to 1st puff st with a ss. BYFO [32 sts and 32 2ch-sps]
Round 10 join Yarn B into any 2ch-sp, ch1 (counts as 1st dc), SP-2 into the centre of the dc sts on Round 8, 1dc into the same 2ch-sp, ch1, (1dc, SP-2, 1dc, ch1) in each 2ch-sp to end of round, join to 1st dc with a ss. BYFO [96 sts and 32 1ch-sps]
Round 11 join Yarn A into any st-sp, ch2 (counts as 1st htr), 1htr into each st-sp to end of round, join to 1st htr with a ss. BYFO [96 sts]
Round 12 join Yarn F into any st-sp, ch3 (counts as 1st tr), 1tr into st-sp behind the tr you just made with the ch3 to make the 1st xtr. Now, work xtr around working into the st-sps, join to 1st tr with a ss. BYFO [96 sts]
Round 13 join Yarn A into any st-sp, ch2 (counts as 1st htr), 1htr into each st-sp to end of round, join to 1st htr with a ss. BYFO [96 sts]

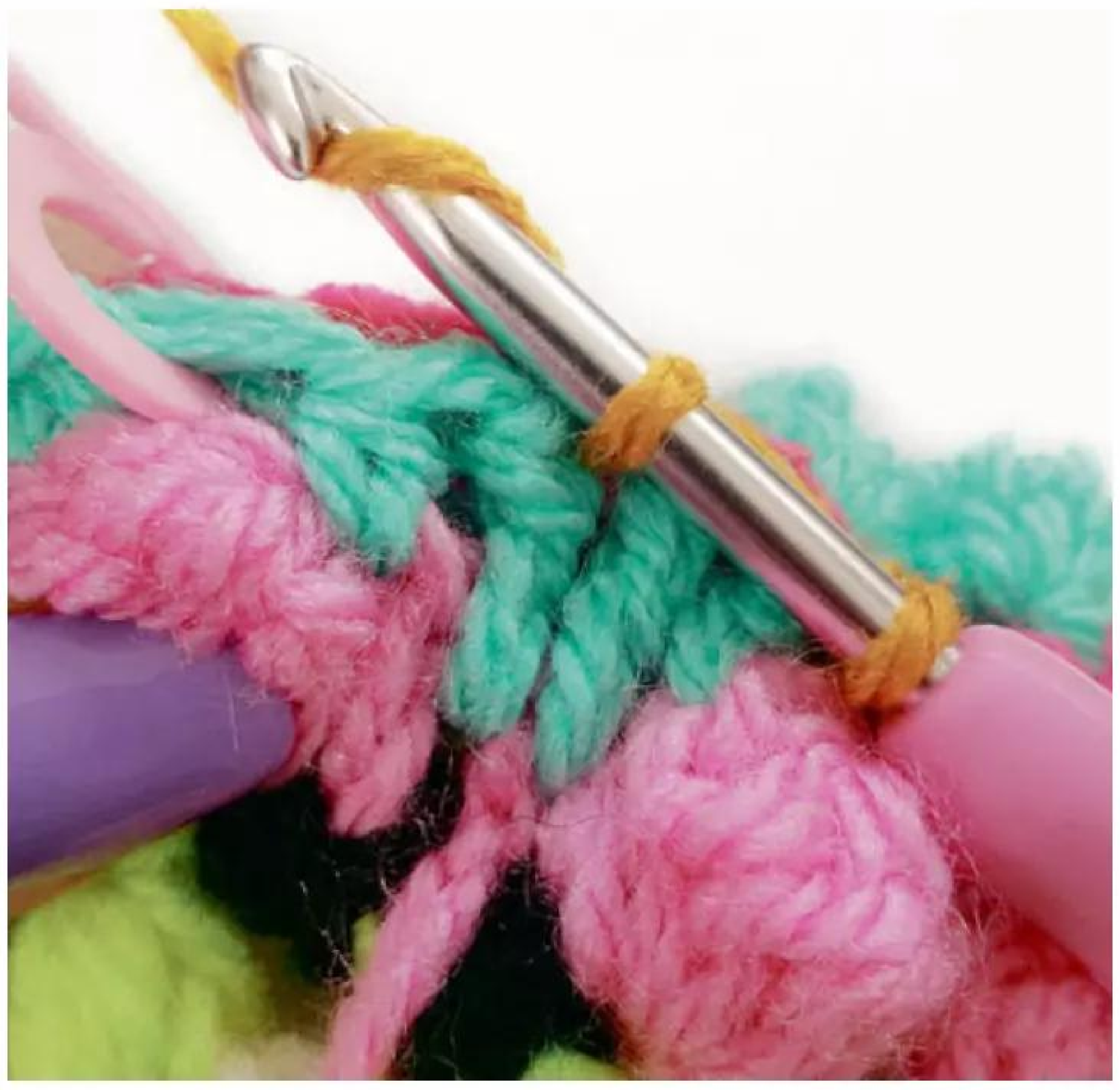












Round 14 join Yarn B into any st-sp, ch3 (counts as 1st tr), 1tr into same st-sp, 2tr into each st-sp to end of round, join to 1st tr with a ss. BYFO [192 sts]

Round 15 join Yarn C into any st-sp between 2tr shells, ch2. Turn your work WS facing, make a bobble st into the same st-sp, ch2, miss 3 st-sps, bobble st into the next st-sp, ch2, (bobble st, ch2) in every 4th st-sp to end of round, join to 1st bobble with a ss. BYFO. Turn work RS facing [48 sts and 48 2ch-sps]

Round 16 join Yarn D into any 2ch-sp, ch2, make puff st into same 2ch-sp, ch3, (puff st, ch3) in each 2ch-sp to end of round, join to 1st puff st with a ss. BYFO [48 sts and 48 3ch-sps]

Round 17 join Yarn B into any 3ch-sp, ch2 (counts as 1st htr), (1htr, ch1, 2htr) into same 3ch-sp, (2htr, ch1, 2htr) in each 3ch-sp to end of round, join to 1st htr with a ss. BYFO [192 sts and 48 1ch-sps]

Round 18 join Yarn E into any st-sp directly above a puff st, ch2 and turn your work WS facing, make a bobble st into the same st-sp, *ch1, 1dc into the next st-sp, SP-3 into the centre of the bobble on Round 15 working over the 1ch-sp, 1dc into the next st-sp, ch1*, bobble st in next st-sp; repeat from * another 46 times, then from * to ** once, join to 1st bobble with a ss. Turn your work back RS facing. BYFO [192 sts and 96 1ch-sps]

Round 19 join Yarn A into a 1ch-sp to the left of any bobble st, ch2 (counts as 1st htr), *1tr into each of the next 2 st-sps, 1htr in each of next two 1ch-sps; repeat from * another 47 times but on the last repeat omit the last htr, join to 1st htr with a ss. BYFO [192 sts]

Back

Repeat the front pattern but change the colours as follows:

Yarn A – Pomegranate
Yarn B – Cream
Yarn C – Black
Yarn D – Sherbet
Yarn E – Aspen
Yarn F – Fondant

Finishing

Weave in all ends on both the front and the back pieces.

Place front and back pieces with WS together, then place a stitch marker through the top st-sp above every other bobble stitch on both pieces all around the work, taking care to catch both sides [24 stitch markers]

Join Yarn G into any st-sp, ch1, 1dc through the next st-sp on both pieces to join, miss 1 st-sp; repeat from * to end of round, join to 1st dc with a ss. BYFO [96 sts]

Weave in all remaining ends.

HOW TO MAKE... A CROCHET CARDIGAN

Summer boho

Keep evening chills at bay with **Anna Wilkinson's** oversized granny-chic crochet cardi

MATERIALS

- DMC Natura XL Just Cotton, 100% cotton, 100g/75m per ball, two balls in Citrus (82) (Yarn A), three balls in Lagon (07) (Yarn B) and nine balls in Fuchsia (43) (Yarn C)
- 7mm (UK 2) crochet hook
- Yarn needle

TENSION

- 11 sts and 6.5 rows (3 groups of 3tr and 2 1ch-sps) to 10cm (4") square

FINISHED SIZE

- One size to fit bust up to 104cm (41"), length 50cm (19¾")

ABBREVIATIONS (UK)

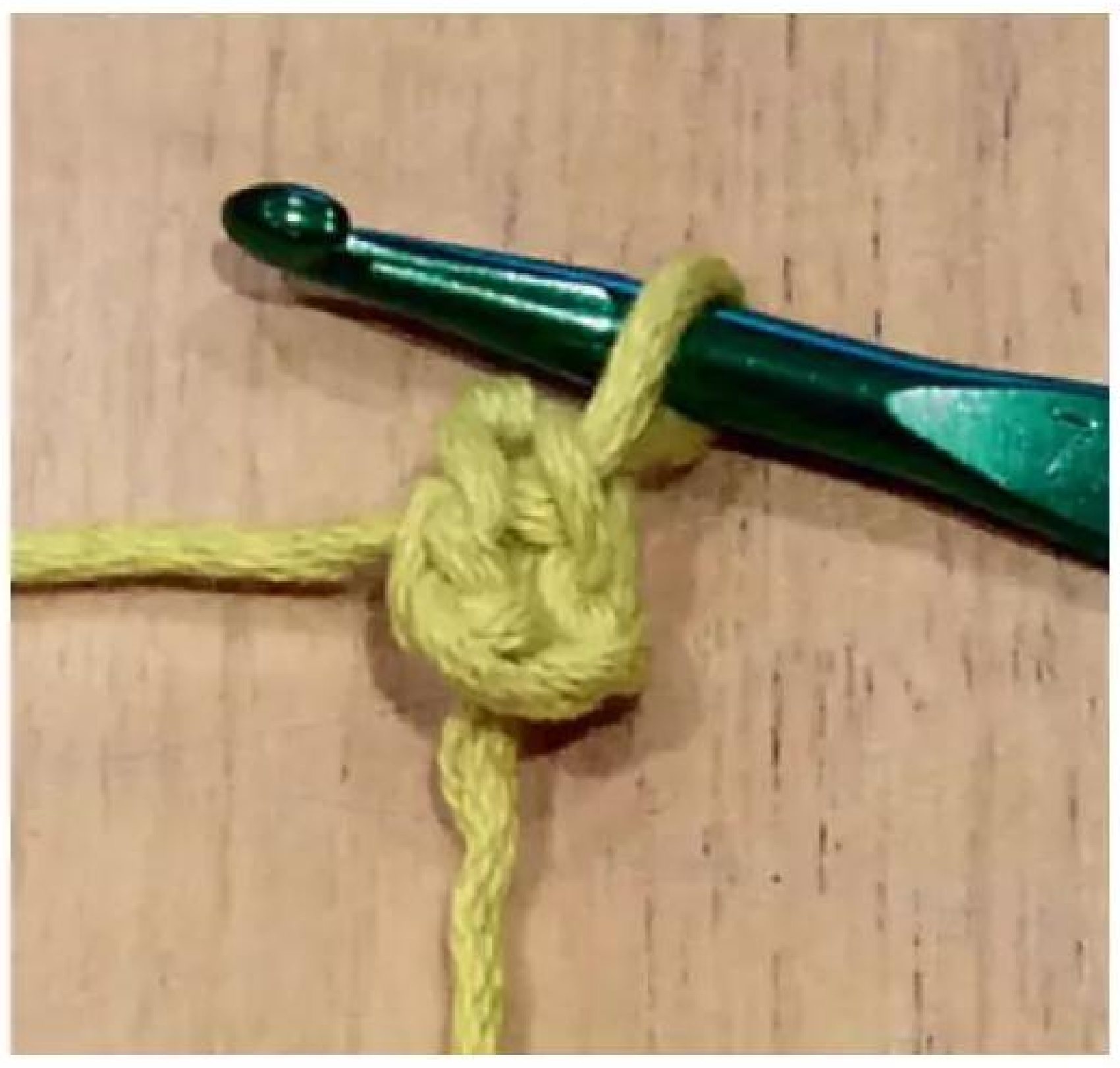
st(s) stitch(es)
sp(s) space(s)
ch chain
ch-sp(s) chain space(s)
ss slip stitch
dc double crochet
RS right side
WS wrong side

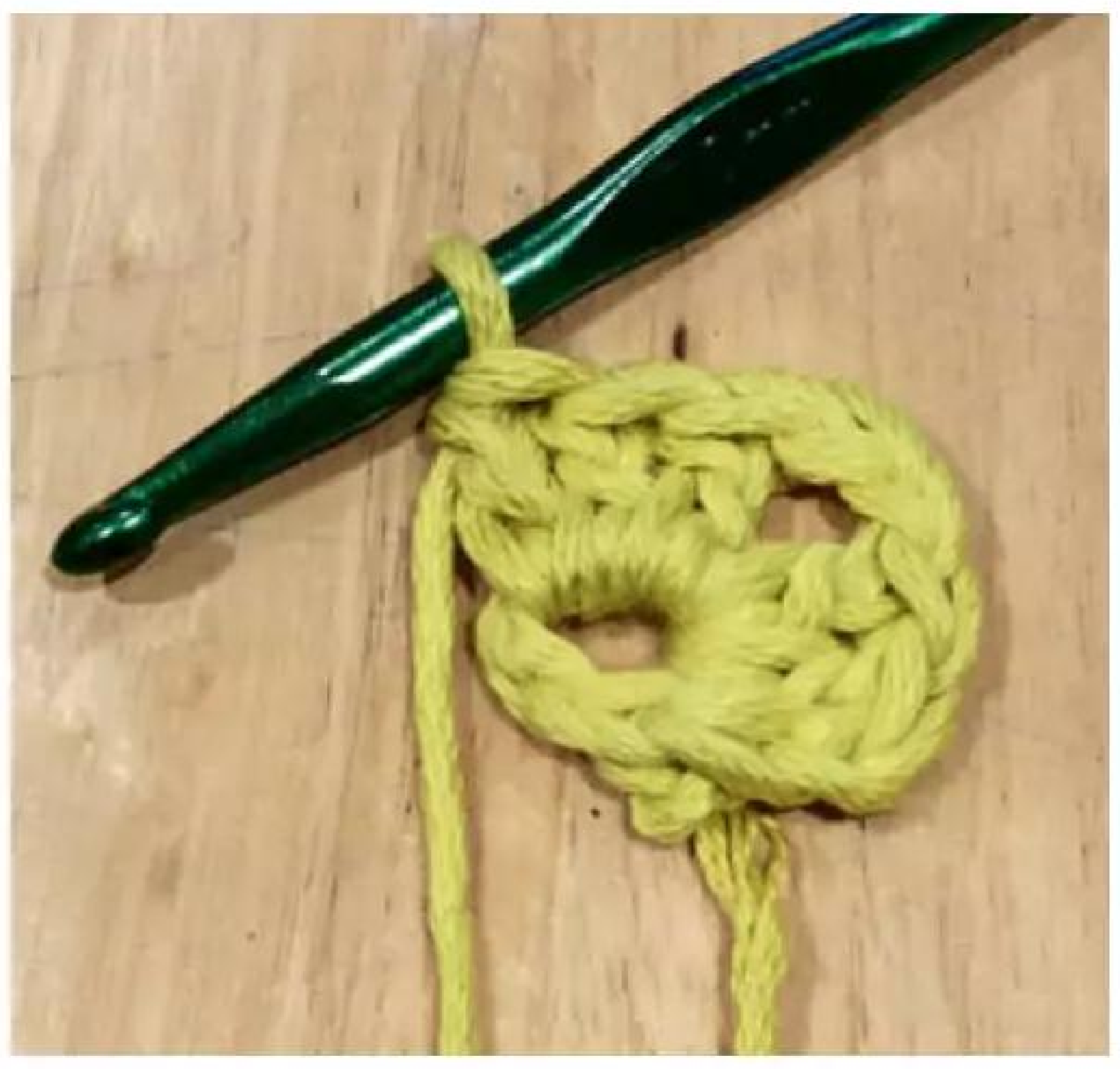
ANNA WILKINSON

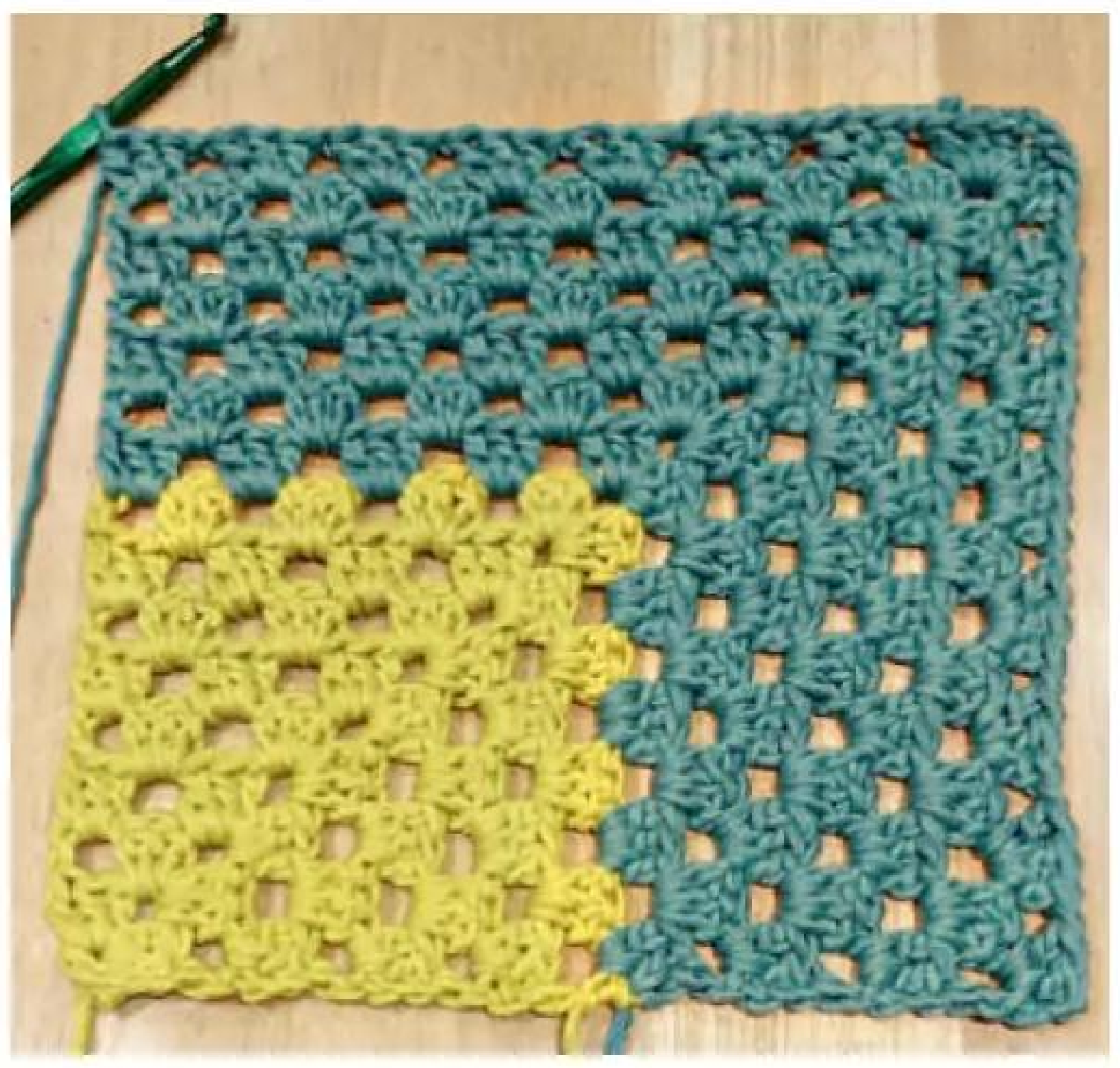
Anna has been crafting since childhood, and while her main outlets for creativity are knitting and crochet, she can also turn her hand to breads and Bolognese. A busy mother, Anna maximises her output during nap times and car journeys. *www.annaknits.com*

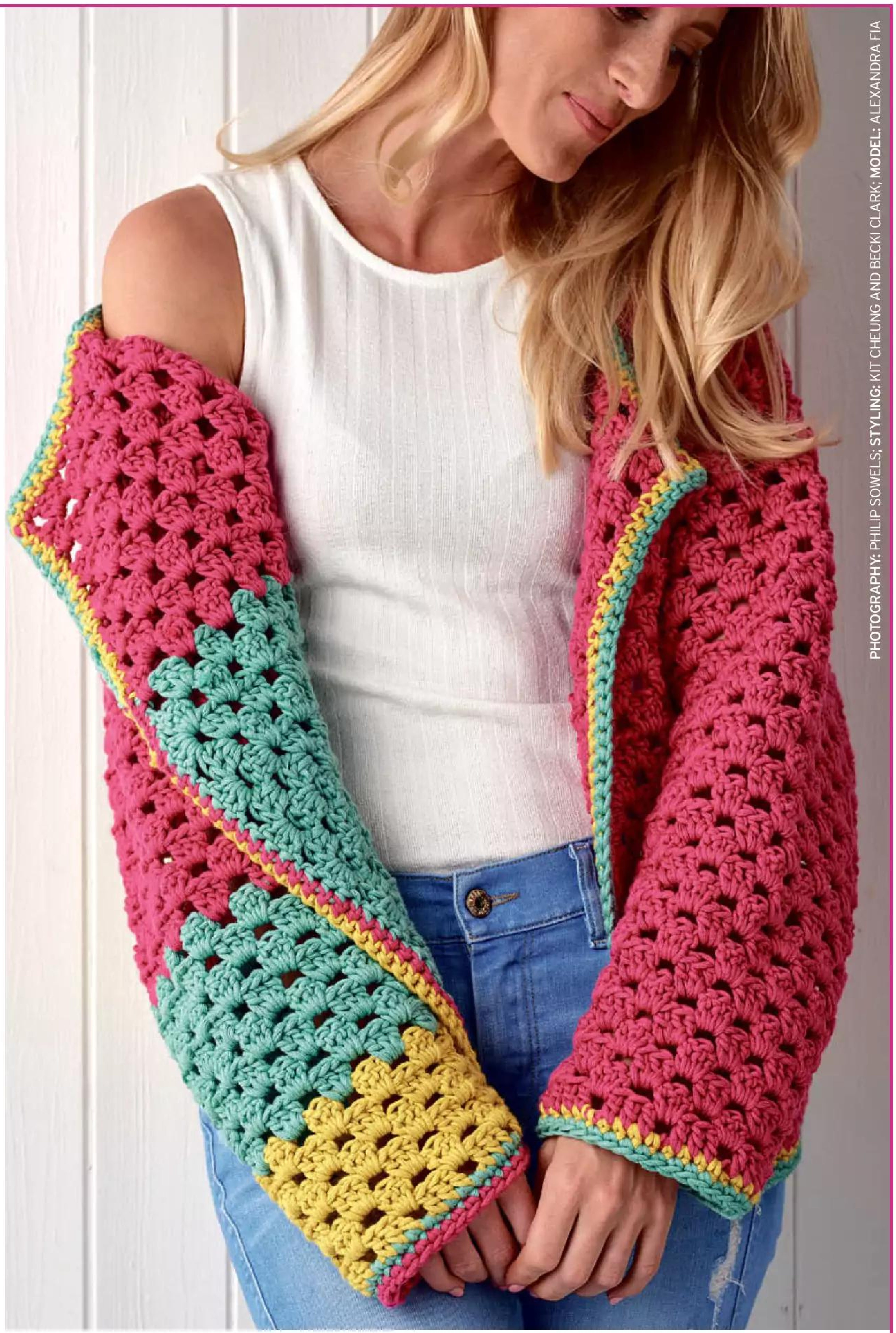
Clear a space in your wardrobe for this season's must-hook item. Whether you're after festival fashion, a cover-up that'll take you from beach to bar, or an oversized cardi to throw on as the sun sets, this piece ticks all the boxes.

Designed in a one-size-fits-all style, Anna's eye-catching make gives off serious retro vibes. Follow our yarn shade suggestions or use as many or as few colours as you like to make yours. And be open-minded about the layout of the garment pieces, too – with the construction working like a granny square, you'll find you need to twist it around and start from a different edge occasionally.









PHOTOGRAPHY: PHILIP SOWELS; STYLING: KIT CHEUNG AND BECKI CLARK; MODEL: ALEXANDRA FIA

Instructions

The garment is made using granny sts. The front and back start with two sides of a granny square and finish in straight rows. The sleeves are made in straight rows.

Back

Foundation using Yarn A, ch4 and join into a ring with a ss

Row 1 ch2 (counts as first tr here and throughout), (2tr, ch2, 3tr) into the ring, turn

Row 2 ch3 (counts as first tr and ch1 here and throughout), (3tr, ch2, 3tr) into 2ch-sp, ch1, 1tr into top of 2nd ch from start of prev row, turn

Row 3 ch2, 2tr into 1ch-sp, ch1, (3tr, ch2, 3tr) into 2ch-sp, ch1, 2tr into 1ch-sp, 1tr into top of 2nd ch from start of prev row, turn

Row 4 ch3, 3tr into 1ch-sp, ch1, (3tr, ch2, 3tr) into 2ch-sp, ch1, 3tr into 1ch-sp, ch1, 1tr into top of 2nd ch from start of prev row, turn

Row 5 ch2, 2tr into 1ch-sp, ch1, (3tr, ch1) in each 1ch-sp to corner, (3tr, ch2, 3tr, ch1) in corner 2ch-sp, (3tr, ch1) in each 1ch-sp up to and including penultimate one, 2tr into final 1ch-sp, 1tr into top of 2nd ch from start of prev row, turn

Row 6 ch3, (3tr, ch1) in each 1ch-sp to corner, (3tr, ch2, 3tr, ch1) in corner 2ch-sp, (3tr, ch1) in each 1ch-sp up to and including last one, 1tr into top of 2nd ch from start of prev row, turn

Repeat Rows 5 and 6 once more

Change to Yarn B and work a further 8 rows in the pattern as set by Rows 5 and 6

Change to Yarn C and work a further 13 rows in the pattern

Break yarn and pass through remaining loop. Twist the work so the yellow square sits at the bottom right

Row 30 reattach yarn at the top right edge and work in pattern up to corner 2ch-sp, 1tr into first ch, turn

Shoulder shaping

Row 31 ch2, 2tr into first 1ch-sp, *ch1, 3tr into next 1ch-sp; repeat from * a further 2 times, ch1, 2tr into next 1ch-sp. Break yarn and pass through remaining loop to fasten. Reattach yarn at other side of neck, giving yourself 5 1ch-sps to work into before the end of the row. 2tr in the first 1ch-sp, ch1, *3tr into next 1ch-sp, ch1; repeat from * a further 2 times, 2tr into final 1ch-sp, 1tr into top of 2nd ch from start of prev row

Right front

Work as for Back until you have worked 7 rows of Yarn B

Row 16 work in pattern up to corner 2ch-sp, 1tr into first ch, turn

Change to Yarn C

Working just along this side now and continuing in the pattern, work a further 10 rows. Break yarn and pass through remaining loop

Neckline shaping

Row 27 with RS facing (yellow square sitting at bottom left corner of work) reattach yarn along the row giving yourself 5 1ch-sps to work into before the end of the row (ch2, 1tr) in the first 1ch-sp, ch1, *3tr into next 1ch-sp, ch1; repeat from * a further 2 times, 2tr into final 1ch-sp, 1tr into top of 2nd ch from start of prev row, turn

Row 28 ch3, *3tr into next 1ch-sp, ch1; repeat from * to end, finishing with 1tr into top of 2nd ch from start of prev row, turn

Work in this pattern as set for a further 3 rows. Break yarn and pass through remaining loop to fasten

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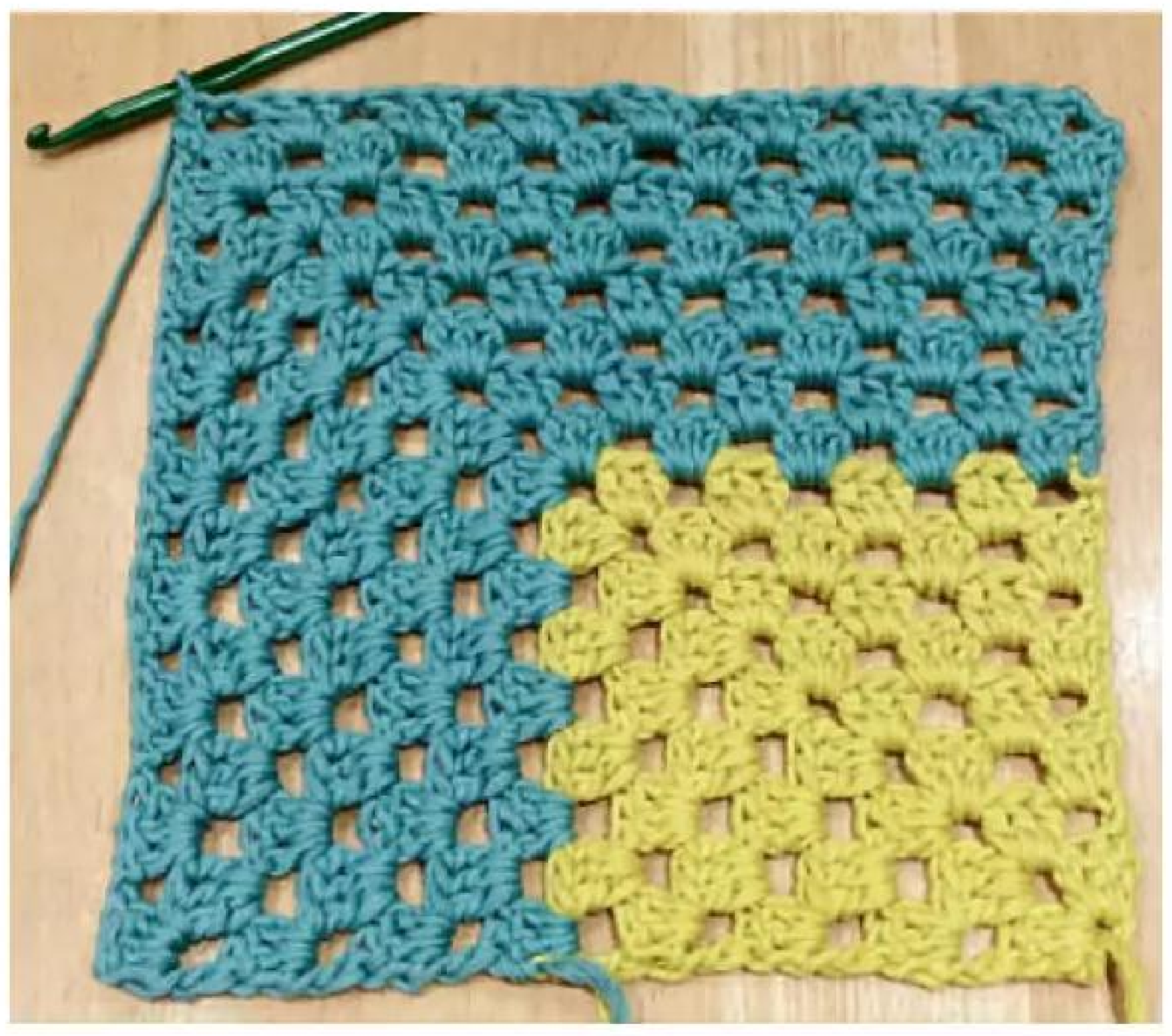
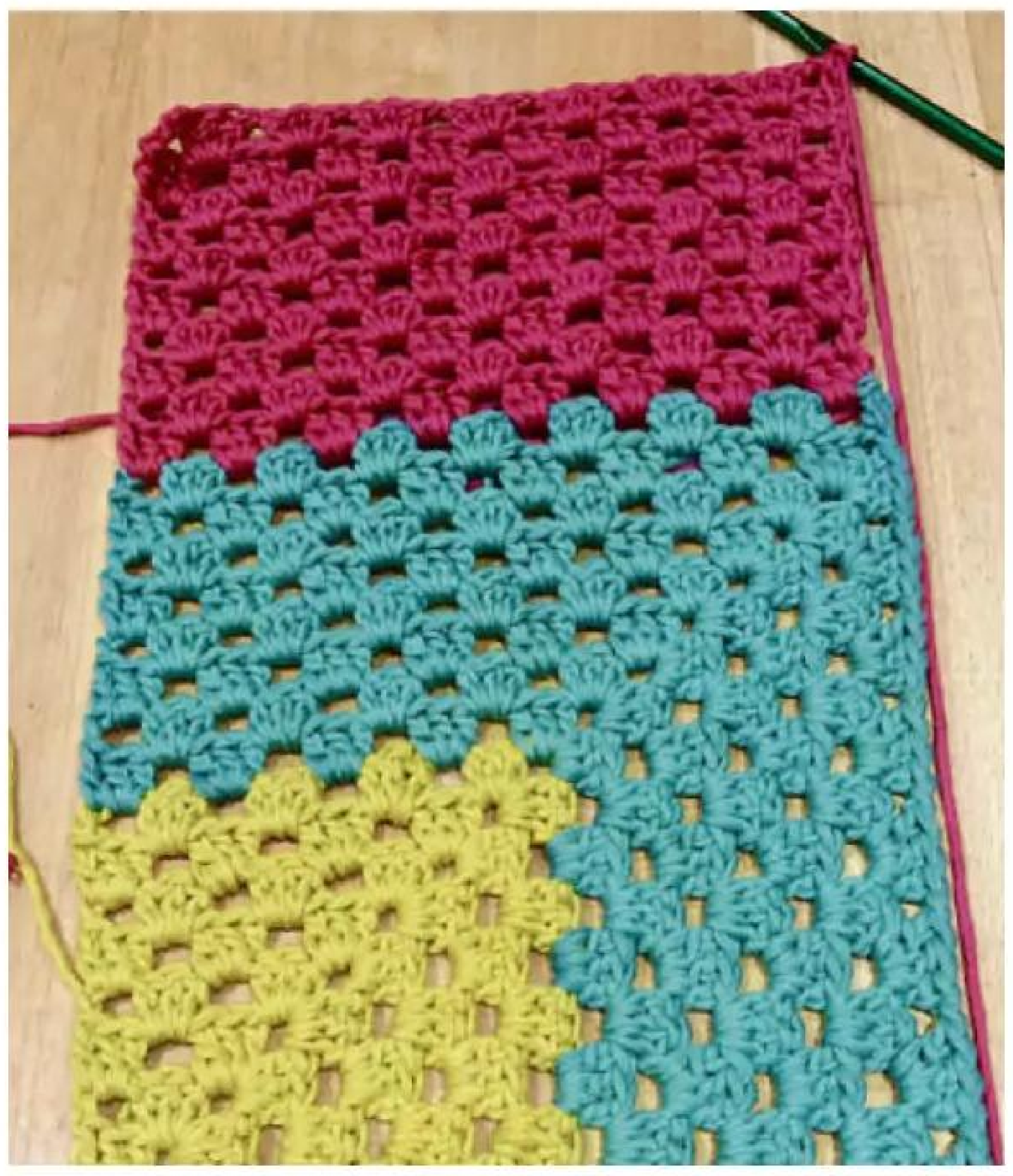
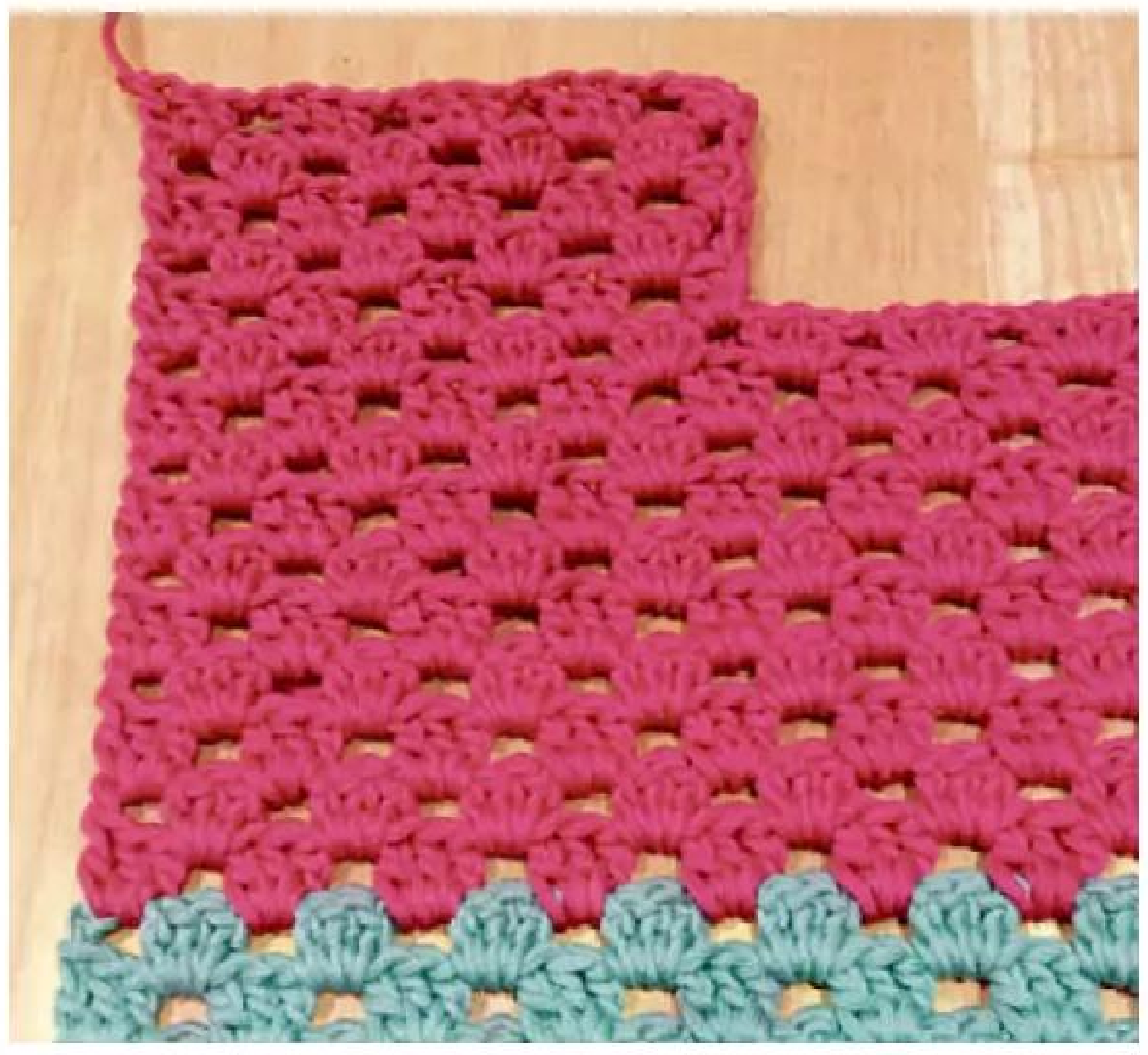
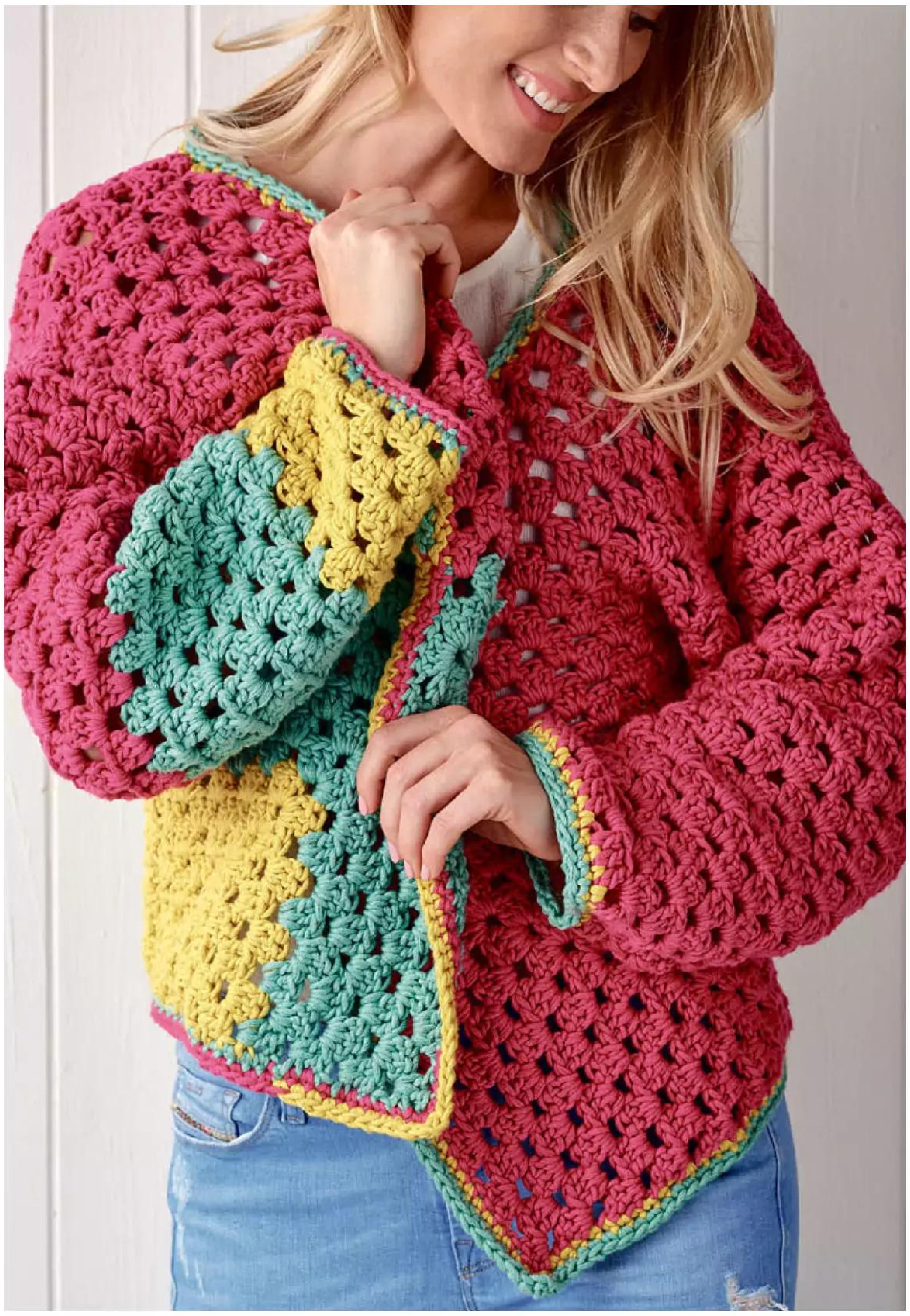








Left front

Work as Right front, using Yarn C throughout, until neckline shaping

Neckline shaping

Row 1 work in pattern as set across 4 1ch-sps (so you will have 4 groups of 3tr), work 2tr into next 1ch-sp, turn

Row 2 ch3, *3tr into next 1ch-sp, ch1; repeat from * to end, finishing with 1tr into top of 2nd ch from start of prev row, turn

Work in this pattern as set for a further 3 rows. Break yarn and pass through remaining loop to fasten

Right sleeve

Foundation using Yarn A, ch36

Set up row 1tr into 3rd ch from hook, 1tr into next ch, *miss 1 st, ch1, 1tr into each of next 3 ch; repeat from * to end of row, turn

Row 1 ch3 (counts as 1tr, ch1), *3tr into 1ch-sp, ch1; repeat from * to end finishing with 1tr into top of 2nd ch from start of prev row, turn

Row 2 (increase row) ch3 (counts as 1tr, ch1), 3tr into first 1ch-sp, *ch1, 3tr into next 1ch-sp; repeat from * to end finishing with ch1, 1tr into top of 2nd ch from start of prev row, turn

Row 3 ch2, 2tr into 1ch-sp, *ch1, 3tr into next 1ch-sp; repeat from * to final 1ch-sp, 2tr into this 1ch-sp, 1tr into top of 2nd ch from start of prev row

Row 4 ch3, *3tr into next 1ch-sp, ch1; repeat from * to end, finishing with 1tr into top of 2nd ch from start of prev row

Row 5 As Row 3

Change to Yarn B

Row 6 as Row 4

Row 7 as Row 2 – increase row

Row 8 as Row 3

Row 9 as Row 4

Row 10 as Row 3

Row 11 as Row 4

Row 12 as Row 2 – increase row

Row 13 as Row 3

Change to Yarn C

Row 14 as Row 4

Row 15 as Row 3

Row 16 as Row 4

Row 17 as Row 2 – increase row

Rows 18-22 work as Rows 8-12

Row 23 as Row 3

Row 24 as Row 4

Rows 25-28 repeat Rows 23-24 twice

Break yarn and pass through remaining loop

Left sleeve

Work as Right sleeve but just work using Yarn C throughout

Joining

To finish off, weave in all ends. Lay out all the garment pieces. The Right front colours will join up with the Back colours along the side seam and the beginning point (the ch4 loop) of the Left front will sit at the side seam. Begin by sewing together the shoulder seams using mattress stitch. Then, stitch the sleeve heads in place. Finish by stitching the side seams up all the way up to the armhole and down the sleeves, joining them together.

Trims

Work 2 rows of multicolour trims in double crochet around the cuffs and neckline, central bands and bottom of the cardigan

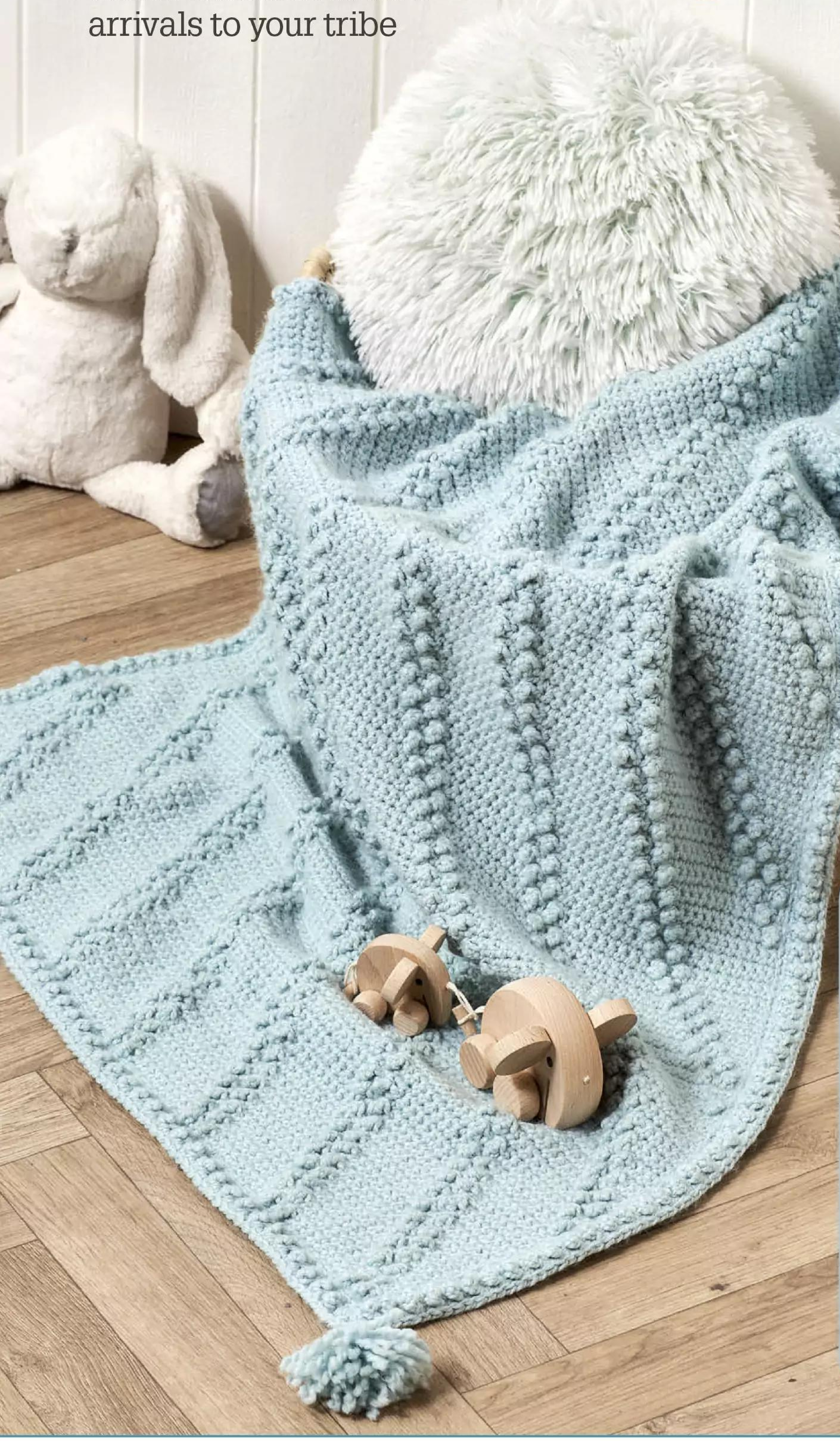
Row 1 work using Yarn A when crocheting into an edge of Yarn C, work using Yarn B when crocheting into an edge of Yarn A, and work using Yarn C when crocheting into an edge of Yarn B – change as and when you meet another patch of colour

Row 2 work using Yarn B when crocheting into an edge just worked in Yarn A, work using Yarn C when crocheting into an edge just worked in Yarn B, and work using Yarn A when crocheting into an edge just worked in Yarn C

Weave in all ends and lightly steam to complete.

Nordic chic

Hook up Sara Huntington's stylish gift and wish a warm welcome to new arrivals to your tribe



HOW TO MAKE... A BABY BLANKET

MATERIALS

- Paintbox Yarns Simply Chunky (100% acrylic, 100g/136m) 8 balls of Washed Teal (332)
- A 5.5mm (US I/9) hook
- A tassel maker
- For yarn stockists contact LoveCrafts 01409 404010
- www.lovecrafts.com

TENSION

- Tension is not critical, but it may affect the yarn quantities required

MEASUREMENTS

- Blanket measures approx 70x115cm (27½x45¼in)

ABBREVIATIONS (UK)

st(s) stitch(es)
beg beginning
ch chain
ch-sp chain space
ss slip stitch
dc double crochet
dtr double treble
rep repeat

NOTES

- Main section of Blanket is worked in rows.
- A Border is worked around the edges at the end.

Ch90.

Row 1 (RS) Dc in second ch from hook, dc in each ch to end, turn. [89 sts]

Row 2 (WS) Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), dtr in first st, (dc in next st, dtr in next st, dc in next 9 sts, dtr in next st) 7 times, dc in next st, dtr in next st, dc in each st to end, turn.

Row 3 Ch1, dc in each st across, turn.

Row 4 Ch1, dc in first 2 sts, (dtr in next st, dc in next 9 sts, dtr in next st, dc in next st) 7 times, dtr in next st, dc in each st to end, turn.

Row 5 As Row 3.

Row 6 Ch1, dtr in first st, (dc in next 9 sts, dtr in next st, dc in next st, dtr in next st) 7 times, dc in each st to end, turn.

Row 7 As Row 3.

Row 8 Ch1, dc in first 9 sts, (dtr in next st, dc in next st, dtr in next st, dc in next 9 sts) 6 times, dtr in next st, dc in next st, dtr in next st, dc in each st to end, turn.

Row 9 As Row 3.

Row 10 Ch1, dc in first 8 sts, (dtr in next st, dc in next st, dtr in next st, dc in next 9 sts) 6 times, dtr in next st, dc in next st, dtr in next st, dc in each st to end, turn.

Row 11 As Row 3.

Row 12 Ch1, dc in first 7 sts, (dtr in next st, dc in next st, dtr in next st, dc in next 9 sts) 6 times, dtr in next st, dc in next st, dtr in next st, dc in each st to end, turn.

Row 13 As Row 3.

Row 14 Ch1, dc in first 6 sts, (dtr in next st, dc in next st, dtr in next st, dc in next 9 sts) 6 times, dtr in next st, dc in next st, dtr in next st, dc in each st to end, turn.

Row 15 As Row 3.

Row 16 Ch1, dc in first 5 sts, (dtr in

»

SARA HUNTINGTON

Sara Huntington is a UK crochet designer, editor and maker with a passion for modern, wearable design and joyful colour. With years of experience shaping creative content for Simply Crochet Magazine, she brings a thoughtful, contemporary approach to pattern development, championing pieces that are both beautiful to make and easy to wear.

Texture is created by working double treble stitches within double crochet rows

next st, dc in next st, dtr in next st, dc in next 9 sts) 6 times, dtr in next st, dc in next st, dtr in next st, dc in each st to end, turn.

Row 17 As Row 3.

Row 18 Ch1, dc in first 4 sts, (dtr in next st, dc in next st, dtr in next st, dc in next 9 sts) 6 times, dtr in next st, dc in next st, dtr in next st, dc in each st to end, turn.

Row 19 As Row 3.

Row 20 Ch1, dc in first 3 sts, (dtr in next st, dc in next st, dtr in next st, dc in next 9 sts) 6 times, dtr in next st, dc in next st, dtr in next st, dc in each st to end, turn.

Row 21 As Row 3.

Row 22 Ch1, dc in first 2 sts, (dtr in next st, dc in next st, dtr in next st, dc in next 9 sts) 6 times, dtr in next st, dc in next st, dtr in next st, dc in each st to end, turn.

Row 23 As Row 3.

Row 24 Ch1, dc in first st, (dtr in next st, dc in next st, dtr in next st, dc in next 9 sts) 6 times, dtr in next st, dc in next st, dtr in next st, dc in each st to end, turn.

Row 25 As Row 3.

Rep Rows 2-25 until Blanket measures approx 110cm long. Do not turn at end of final RS row.

Border

Round 1 (RS) Ch1, (dc, ch1, dc) in first row-end, dc in each row-end across to final row-end, (dc, ch1, dc) in final row-end, dc in each st across, base, (dc, ch1, dc) in first row-end, dc in each row-end across to final row-end, (dc, ch1, dc) in final row-end, dc in each st across final row, ss to beg dc, turn.

Round 2 (WS) Ch1, *(dc in next st, dtr in next st) rep across to ch-1 sp, (2dc, ch1, 2dc) in ch-sp; rep from * around to ends, ss to beg dc, turn.

Round 3 Ch1, *dc in each st to ch-1 sp, (dc, ch1, dc) in ch-sp; rep from * around, ss to beg dc.

Fasten off and weave in all ends.

To finish

Make 4 tassels and sew one to each corner.

Bonus Beginners Guide to Crochet with Simply Crochet Bookazine

The Bonus Beginner's Guide to Crochet is the perfect companion for you to take your first steps in crochet, brought to you from the team at Simply Crochet magazine. Inside, we'll show you easy stitches and techniques to get you started, plus you can practise your newfound skills with fun projects such as granny squares, bobble hats, toys and more! The 132-page digital guide is packed with step-by-step photos and easy-to-follow information for both left and right handers, and you'll find your crochet skills improve with every page.

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